The National
Future Farmer

October–November, 1989

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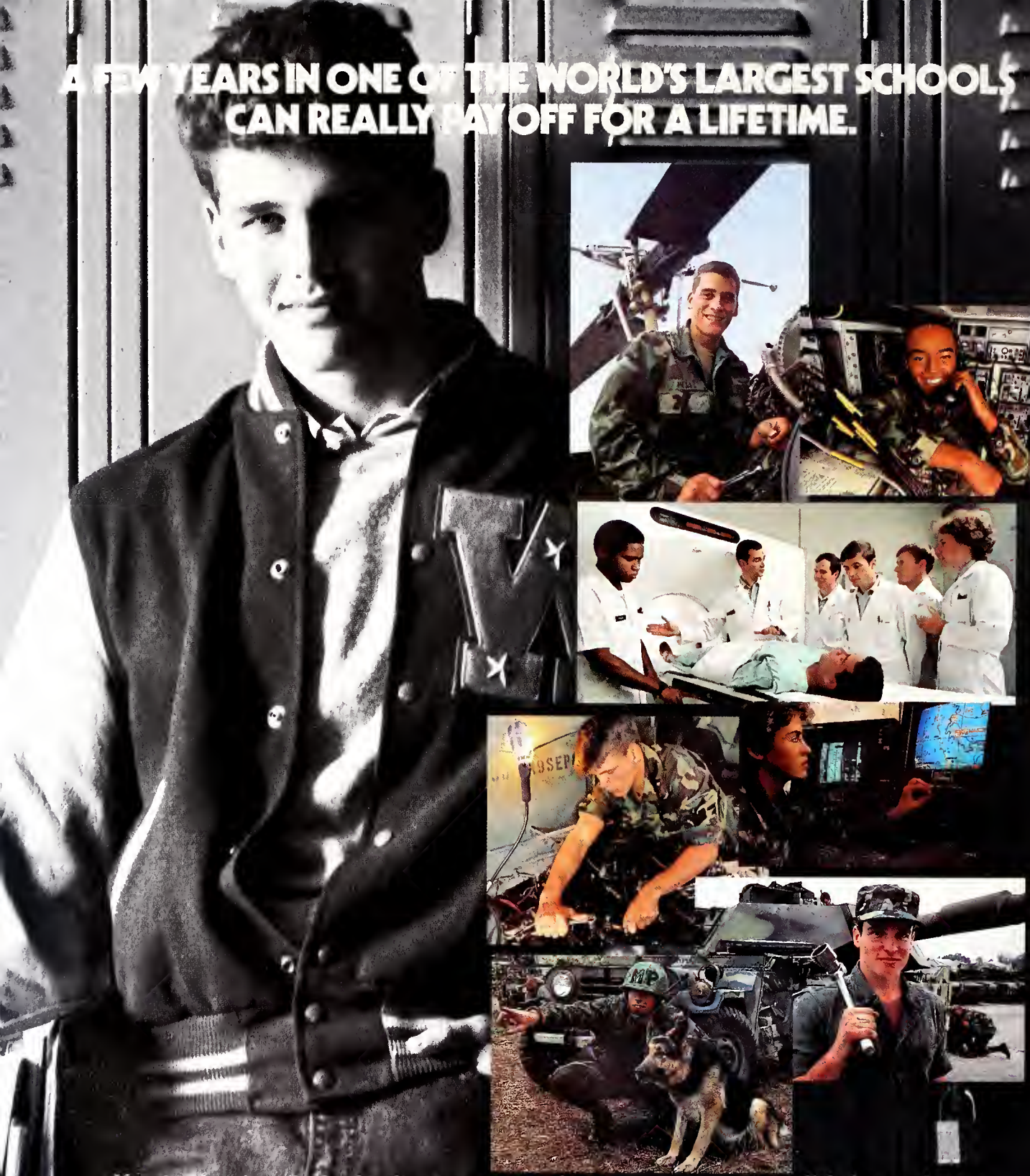

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In This Issue

October-November, 1989
Volume 38 Number 1

10

24

22

Cover Story

10 ***State Presidents Meet***
On the cover, President George Bush spoke to state officers in the Old Executive Office Building during State Presidents' Conference. White House aide Fred McClure, right, is a former national FFA officer. Photo by Andrew Markwart.

FFA

22 ***National Convention***
Important FFA issues will take center stage again this year in Kansas City, Missouri.

24 ***Hot Fun in the Summer***
FFA members enjoyed themselves despite the heat at the Washington Conference Program this summer.

28 ***Tradition of Excellence***
They have excelled in their enterprises because of hard work and a dream to succeed. Meet FFA's regional star farmers and agribusinessmen for 1989.

32 ***New FFA Sales Contest***
There are plenty of jobs in ag sales and this new contest is a way to get started on some valuable skills.

Careers

14 ***The Three C's of an Agricultural Career***
Three secretaries of agriculture share their ideas about competition, communication and commitment.

34 ***Beyond the Farm***
The agricultural industry is calling for smart, hard-working people who know what they're talking about. Rural youth say they are committed to filling that need.

36 ***Giving Vets a Hand***
Students in BelAir, Maryland, are landing good jobs in veterinary clinics because of skills they've learned in agriculture class.

In Every Issue

4 News In Brief
6 Mailbag
8 Looking Ahead
38 Chapter Scoop
42 FFA in Action
47 My Turn
48 Joke Page

The Bottom Line

When the last few FFA meetings I attended were over, I was left with sort of an empty feeling. I didn't know why.

As I thought about it later, I think I discovered the reason. At the end of the meeting we didn't join together in a salute to our flag. Furthermore, the presiding officer didn't challenge me and the FFA members present with "As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life..."

Maybe I am a bit old fashioned but I missed the opportunity to once again pledge allegiance "to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands..."

Even today as I go about my duties with FFA, I frequently remind myself that we are supposed to be "just in our dealings and honest and fair in the game of life."

My concern is that these meaningful words have been taken from us with nothing offered in return. Just having the presiding officer stand there with a blank expression and say, "the meeting is over and we thank you for coming" doesn't turn me on.

As this is written, a committee has completely revised the FFA manual including the creed and ceremonies. I have not yet seen what the wordsmiths have come up with that is to be meaningful to students of agriculture and FFA members today. But I am waiting in eager anticipation. I hope you are, too. I also hope you will study these revisions and voice your feelings, both pro and con.

The legacy you leave for the FFA members to follow is so important we all need to give it our best effort.

Wilson Carnes

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News In Brief

New Name for National FUTURE FARMER Magazine?

You may be reading the last issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. As this issue runs on the press in Atlanta, Georgia, a committee of 14 people representing FFA members, agriculture teachers, state agriculture education staffs and others are meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, September 14 to select a new name for the magazine.

The committee was formed after the FFA Board of Directors and national FFA officers approved a motion at their July meeting that directed the "magazine staff research and select a new name for *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine and submit that name to the board of directors for approval by October 1, 1989."

During July and August, hundreds of surveys were completed by FFA members participating in the Washington Conference Program, state FFA officers attending the State Presidents' Conference, agriculture teachers, state agricultural education staff, university professors of agricultural education and others. The surveys asked what types of words should be in the name and, using those words, they were asked to recommend a name.

The purpose of the surveys were to gather as much information and ideas for the committee as possible. The committee will submit the name to the FFA Board of Directors for approval in late September.

If approved, the new name would be premiered at National FFA Convention in November and appear for the first time on the December-January issue.

Made For Excellence Dates Announced

The National FFA Organization will conduct 24 Made For Excellence (MFE) conferences during the 1989-90 year. MFE is a series of personal development conferences which center around developing a positive mental attitude, maintaining a healthy self-image, goal setting and coping with negative peer pressure.

Four conferences were held in Michigan, Minnesota, Louisiana and Montana in September. Other conferences are scheduled for: Montana (second conference) Sept. 30-Oct. 1; Mississippi, Sept. 30-Oct. 1; South Dakota, Oct. 14-15; Wisconsin, Oct. 21-22; Kentucky, Oct. 27-28; Iowa, Oct. 28-29; Ohio, Dec. 2-3; Georgia, Dec. 2-3; Colorado, Dec. 9-10; Oklahoma, Dec. 9-10; North Dakota, Jan. 6-7; Florida, Jan. 13-14; New Mexico, Jan 13-14; Idaho, Jan. 19-20; California, Jan. 27-28; Kansas, Jan. 27-28; New Jersey, Feb. 3-4; North Carolina, Feb. 10-11; Utah, Feb. 17-18 and Virginia, Feb. 24-25.

For more information, contact Kip Godwin, program manager, National FFA Center, P.O. BOX 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160, telephone (703) 360-3600.

Case IH Tour

Case IH sponsored an all-expense paid trip to its headquarters in Racine, Wisconsin, for the 1988 regional Agricultural Mechanics Proficiency winners August 21-23.

Attending the educational seminar were Noel Cowley, Richfield, Utah, and his advisor McKay Jenson and Roger Nelson of the Spencer-Naper, Nebraska FFA Chapter.

The tour was sponsored by Case IH, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Sculpture Ceremony

President George Bush has been invited to deliver the opening speech at the dedication ceremony of a sculpture created to honor the American farmer at the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas, November 9. Secretaries of Agriculture from each state along with farm families from across the nation will be in attendance.

During the opening ceremony, the FFA flag and 4-H flag will be raised over the memorial and will continue to be flown daily. Since the ceremony coincides with the National FFA Convention in nearby Kansas City, Missouri, organizers are hoping that FFA members will be able to carry the 50 state flags at the beginning of the ceremony.

Country music artists, the Bellamy Brothers, will perform the National Anthem during the opening ceremony and a specially written song to pay tribute to the American farmer. The 33'-long, 10'-high steel and bronze memorial reflects the past, present and future of farming in America.

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Mailbag

FFA Helps Keep Students in School

I have just finished my first year of FFA. I have really enjoyed being in agriculture class. Our ag teacher, Mr. Tarpley, not only makes it fun, but shows us things that we will always use in life. I know many members who would have quit school a long time ago if not for coming to the agriculture building every day.

Michele Randolph
Roswell, New Mexico

Advisors Column?

Why don't you print a small column from members as to the success of the advisors?

Our advisor is the greatest advisor a chapter could have.

If you were to produce a column dedicated to advisors it would be appreciated by me and most likely more chapters with the same kind of attitudes toward their advisors. They deserve that kind of recognition.

Bruce Slaton
Sacramento, California

WEA in Australia

I am writing to encourage more FFA members to take advantage of the Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program. I have recently returned from a six month stay in Australia and had a wonderful time. It was interesting to live in a different culture and receive hands-on experience working with cattle and horses. Seeing how farmers and ranchers operate in Australia has given me some great ideas to use for my own enterprise, as well as experience that will serve as a reference when I look for a job in the future.

Plenty of hard work was involved, but I made many new friends and took some time to tour around and see the sights. I learned a great deal about responsibility and living life without mom and dad to take care of me. I will tell you now that I appreciate my parents much more than I used to! It's nice to be back home, but I know that someday I will return to say "G'day" to all of me mates in the land Down Under.

Celia Kissner
Cedaredge, Colorado

Pig Jokes Wanted

The Perrydale FFA is trying to write a book and we need your help. When freshmen at Perrydale study swine one of the first assignments they receive is to make up a pig joke. We then hope to put these together in a book. We thought that if we could get the whole country involved in sending us pig jokes we would get our book written faster and with a lot better jokes.

Please send us your pig jokes to the Perrydale FFA Chapter, 7445 Perrydale Road, Amity, Oregon 97101.

Joke example: Why was the pig asked to leave the room? Because he was a boar!

Kirk Hutchinson
Amity, Oregon

Drug-Free America

I have read your August-September, 1989 issue and found the page about Partnership for a Drug-Free American much like my town.

As I was reading the small paragraph it talked about kids in small towns being into big town drugs. I found the percentages very interesting.

Celena Honeycutt
Ravenden Springs, Arkansas

More Recognition

The American FFA Degree is the highest degree that any FFA member can achieve. As an FFA member I feel we should recognize these outstanding members with more than a handshake and a walk across the stage. I think that for such a high honor the members are being cut short.

Knowing that the ceremony is long and sometimes boring I think it can be improved. We can do this by having two or three slides of each individual and a short description of each member's program. This would make the ceremony more interesting for everyone and give each American FFA Degree winner some of the recognition they deserve.

American FFA Degree winners are the role models that every FFA member looks up to.

Lori Godart
Pulaski, Wisconsin

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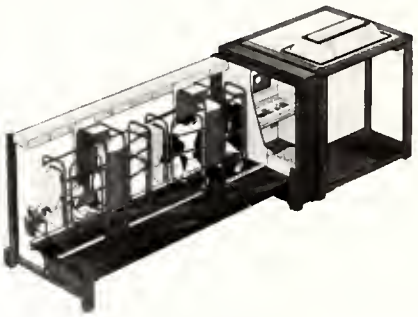
Looking Ahead

Robotic Milking Machine

With the help of a select group of agricultural engineering firms, an automatic milking system has been developed in Europe by the Vicon company. The idea behind the system is for the cow to use the milking unit when she wants to be milked without the assistance of the farmer.

Testing has shown that cows will visit the unit four times a day which increases their milk production 15 to 20 percent.



When a cow enters the automated milking system, information contained in a collar around the cow's neck tells a computer the animal's identity, expected milk yield and health situation. If the computer detects a problem, the cow is released back into the herd or a holding area.

When the cow is admitted for milking, the milking unit automatically adapts itself to her length. Then a feeding system is triggered.

A robotic arm positions the teat cups using ultrasonic sensors. Before milking, the teats are cleaned in the teat cups. During milking the milk is checked for cell count so mastitis can be identified at an early stage. Milk temperature and cow activity measurements supply information about the cow's heat cycle. A milk meter measures the production, which is recorded on computer disk. Measurement of the milk flow indicates when the cow has been milked sufficiently.

The farmer can analyze all of this information on a computer screen. A special list alerts the farmer to cases where cows require individual attention. This constant flow of information helps the farmer make the right decisions which he or she passes on to the system.

A number of the units are being tested in Europe and North America.

New Color for Seed Corn

Expect to see a new, brightly colored kernel when you open most bags of seed corn next spring. The familiar purple hue is yielding to a pinkish-orange color.

According to Cenex/Land O'Lakes, until recently, almost all seed corn was colored with a dye. The government is asking the manufacturer of the dye to submit considerable amounts of safety data, resulting in several million dollars of research.

Many hybrid seed corn companies have switched to a new government-approved product called "Color Coat," which will be used on seed corn for 1990. Unlike the dye, Color Coat will be easier to handle because it washes off and won't stain the producer's hands, clothes or equipment.

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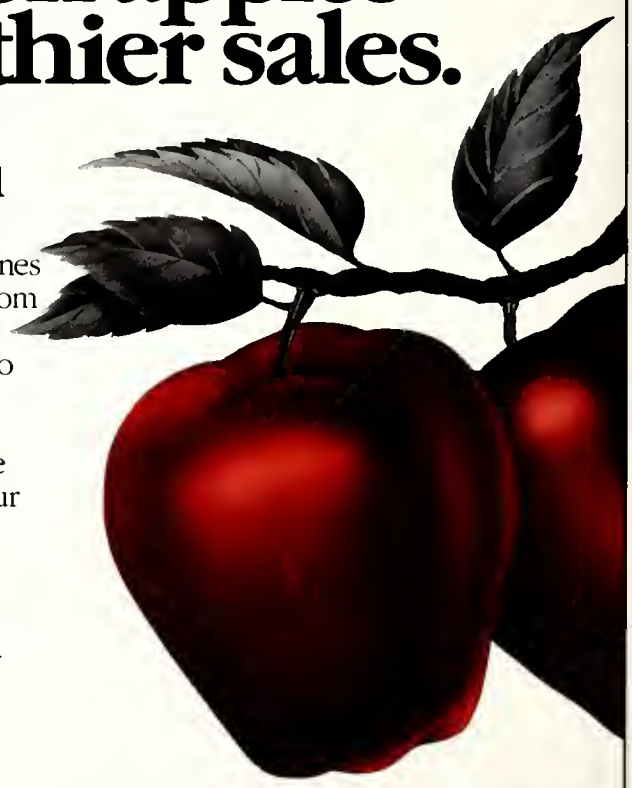

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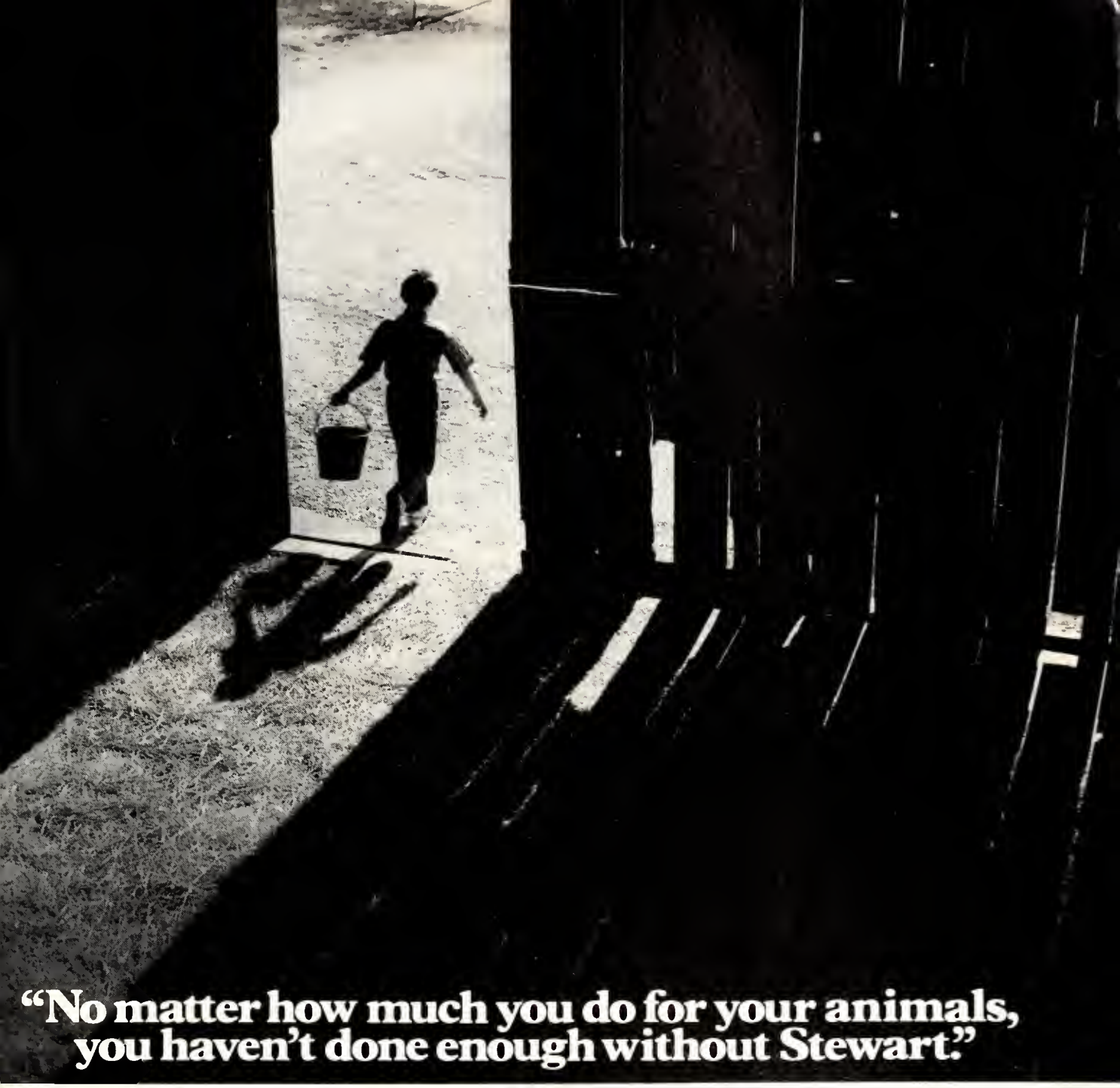

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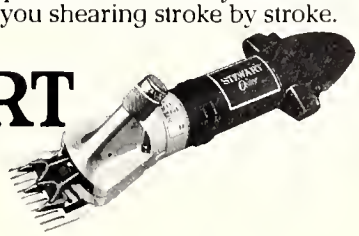

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STW-89-4

Leading the Challenge

FFA state presidents meet with President Bush, tackle FFA issues

By Andrew Markwart

Bill Stagg Photo

For the third consecutive year, Chevrolet contributed a special edition pick-up truck to the FFA, above. All of the state officers took part in the presentation ceremony at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Left to right are Fred M. Farabaugh Jr., and Dora Nowicki of Chevrolet; Dana Soukup, national FFA president; and national FFA officers Jeff Johnson, Brad Chambliss, Jaye Hamby, Warren Boerger and Jeff Isom.

President George Bush welcomed FFA state officers to the Old Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House in Washington, D.C., July 27, saying, "We know what to call the FFA. We call it America at her best; America at her most generous. An America embodied by your motto: Learning to do, doing to learn; earning to live, and living to serve."

The officers were in the nation's capital for the annual FFA State Presidents' Conference, July 24-28. Bush talked to the FFA officers about the importance of America's ability to compete in today's global marketplace. "At home, the need to compete means developing new crops and uses for agricultural commodities as raw materials for industry," said Bush. "And for you, our global economy means there has never been a better place, nor more crucial time, to start a career than in America today."

President Bush was accompanied on stage during his speech by Fred McClure, chief assistant to the President for legislative affairs and a former national FFA officer from Texas. At a luncheon earlier in the week, McClure had spoken to the group about how FFA had played an important role in his life. Congressman Bill Sarpalius, a former Texas state FFA president, also emphasized the impact FFA had on his life as he addressed the group during the congressional luncheon held on Capitol Hill.

Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter met with the state officers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture June 28. In addition to an extensive photo session, Yeutter talked to the group about the current state of American agriculture and briefed them on issues ranging from international trade talks to the 1990 Farm Bill. The secretary fielded questions from the officers and was asked about issues including drought relief for farmers and the commodity trading scandal at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade.

Andrew Markwart Photo

Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter didn't have all the answers, but took a round of questions from the state officers as Warren Boerger, left, and Dana Soukup listened.

Andrew Markwart Photo

Fred McClure, chief assistant to the President for legislative affairs, explained how the FFA helped pave the road to the White House. McClure is a former national FFA officer from Texas.

The visit by President Bush was the highlight to a week that was inspiring and challenging for the state officers.

Each state FFA association sent its president and one other officer to the conference. Along with the responsibility of being state officers, these FFA members will also serve as delegates to the 62nd National FFA Convention in Kansas City this November. The delegates vote

Dunn LeDoux Photo

Just before President Bush spoke to the state officers in the Old Executive Office Building near the White House, Dana Soukup awarded the president an FFA Blue and Gold plaque as Brad Chambliss looked on.

on important issues that affect the operation and the future of the National FFA Organization.

According to the officers, the most important and delicate issue the delegates will handle this fall will be whether or not to change the delegate process and the number of delegates each state is allowed. (See adjoining article for more details.)

Other topics that the officers will be voting on in November include eliminating quotas from the American FFA Degree. Presently, some qualified applicants do not receive the degree because there is a limit to the number of members in each state that can receive the degree. The officers will also be considering revised versions of the FFA Creed and official FFA ceremonies in Kansas City.

The Chevrolet Truck Division of the General Motors Corporation presented the National FFA Organization with a 1990 half-ton Chevy 4x4 Scottsdale truck for the third consecutive year. The new truck was then presented to the National FFA Alumni Association to be sold during their auction at national convention. The money earned from the sale of the truck will be distributed by the FFA Alumni as scholarships to FFA members.

The National FFA Alumni Association also held its State Leaders Conference in Washington D. C., July 24-28. In addition to their conference schedule, the Alumni leaders attended many of the same events as the state FFA officers. •••

The State President's Conference is sponsored by Chevrolet as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Meetings for FFA Alumni state leaders were funded in part by Philip Morris U.S.A., also as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

New Delegate System to be Voted on at National Convention

At National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, in November, delegates from each state FFA association will be voting on a new system of FFA member representation. Most of these delegates are the state officers that attended State Presidents' Conference.

The motion before the delegates would change the present system that provides for two official delegates from each state plus one additional delegate for each 10,000 active members or major fraction thereof above the first 10,000. The proposed system would retain the two official delegates but increase the number of additional delegates to one delegate for each 1,000 active state members.

For example, a state such as Wisconsin, with a current membership of 15,463, would bring 17 delegates to convention rather than the three they are now allowed. (See chart below.)

It also means there would be 474 delegates at the National FFA Convention representing their states instead of the 115 that currently serve. The proposed system would involve four times th number of FFA members in the policy-making process of the National FFA Organization. It would also involve spending four times as much money than what is currently spent for convention delegate activities.

Along with a change in the numbers of delegates, the proposed system would also change the process by which delegate work would get accomplished. A new set of committees and subcommittees would be put in place that would increase the number of leadership roles in the delegate committee process and give more focus to specific areas.

For example, an item of business involving the Washington Conference Program would first have to pass through the "WCP" subcommittee and then through the full "Leadership" committee. Only then would it be allowed on the convention floor. It would take a two-thirds majority vote by the 474 delegates to bring an item of business directly to the convention floor without passing through committee channels.

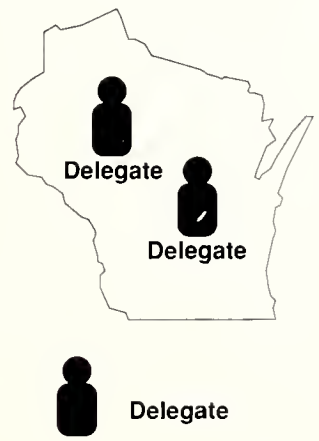
Also, more time would be given at State Presidents' Conferences in the future for the officers to prepare for their committee work at convention.

The proposed delegate system was developed by the National FFA Organization Task Force on Equity Issues. Its members include state agricultural education leaders from across the country.

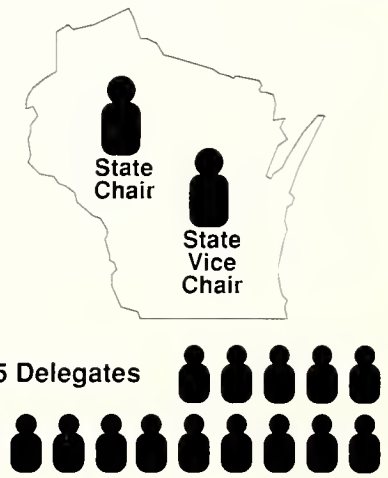
The proposal was presented to the state officers during State Presidents' Conference so they could discuss it among themselves and return to their states to gather input from their membership. They will vote on the proposal Wednesday, November 8, in the Municipal Auditorium.

Example - Wisconsin
Membership -15,463

Current Delegate System



Proposed Delegate System



Detecting when... The Heat is On

Two FFA members used science to take the guessing out of cattle breeding

By Andrew Markwart

Regional Agriscience winner Teresa Brown of Blackfoot, Idaho, checks the hormone level in a milk sample from her dairy herd.

Photos by Nicholson Communications

The best gamblers will tell you that luck has very little to do with winning. To protect themselves, they have all the odds calculated, all of the risks factored in and they know as much about the game as possible.

Yet for many years, dairy farmers have depended heavily on luck to play a major part in their breeding program. Cattle have a natural tendency to mount each other when they are ready to be bred, or "in heat." The dairy farmer has to keep an eye on the herd continuously to catch which cow is in heat. With all that goes on around a dairy farm, sometimes the farmer misses the sign from the cow or heifer.

FFA members Teresa Brown, Blackfoot, Idaho and Lisa Smith, Comer, Georgia, are trying to take some of the guesswork out of cattle breeding cycles. They conducted experiments that helped pinpoint timing of heat cycles and even regulate them. They both were 1988 regional winners of the FFA Agriscience Student Recognition Program.

An important management technique in dairy production is keeping a steady number of cows milking at one time and a cow's ability to produce milk is based on her calving schedule. She begins producing milk after delivering a calf. Her production will increase, peak and then decrease over a period of about 11 months.

Brown's agriscience experiment focused on monitoring the hormone levels in each cow's milk to determine at what stage they were in their heat cycles. She used a special testing kit that detected the amount of the hormone *progesterone* in the milk samples of her family's 80 milking Holsteins.

By using the test, Brown was able to identify with a greater degree of certainty which cows were ready to be bred than if she had just watched the herd for the natural signs of cows mounting each other. Cows that tested with high progesterone levels were usually injected with prostaglandin, a fatty acid that stimulates the cow's reproductive system. This allows the dairy producer to control the optimum time for breeding.

The test also can detect reproductive problems. Teresa, 19, discovered through the testing that two cows had cysts. The cysts were treated, but might have gone undetected without her observations.

Brown is a sophomore at Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho, majoring in animal science. She plans to transfer to Utah State University and study animal reproduction, genetics and embryology and then pursue a career in cattle genetics.

As a member of Franklin County FFA Chapter, Lisa Smith was a member of three state winning judging contest teams—dairy, meats and livestock. This interest in livestock and the fact that her father is a veterinarian led Smith to her agriscience project.

Her father had used two types of synthetic prostaglandins to synchronize the heat cycles of dairy replacement heifers. F2 alpha prostaglandin was administered by injection and Syncro-Mate B̲b̲ by implant. Both methods were effective, but the Smiths had never tested to see which produced the best results or which was most cost effective.

Lisa divided 90 Holstein heifers into three groups. One group served as the control and received no treatment. A second group received injections and the third received the implants. Lisa checked the heifers twice a day to determine which were in heat. The heifers were bred 12 hours after heat was detected.

She found that while both treatments were much more effective than no treatment at all, the injections of F2 were more cost efficient than the implants.

Smith plans on obtaining a veterinary science degree from the University of Georgia and specializing in reproductive physiology. •••

The Agriscience Student Recognition Program is sponsored by the Monsanto Agricultural Company as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Lisa Smith, Comer, Georgia, compared two animal health products that stimulate a cow's reproductive system.

Forecasting Heat

Radio-Equipped Cows Improve Breeding Efficiency

By Richard Dunn

While dairy science has taught farmers a great deal about how to best manage their herds, there are some simple things researchers haven't figured out—until now. One of the largest mysteries in cattle production is detecting the best time to breed a cow. If a farmer owns a bull the process is simple. But without the intuitive instincts of a herd bull the average dairy farmer is left with educated guesses and assumptions to guide the timing of the important task of artificial insemination.

In the dairy industry, where the majority of cows are bred artificially, average dairy farmers detect only half the heat periods. Since the heat period signals ovulation—the only time a cow can conceive—missing a heat greatly reduces the efficiency of the herd. Studies place the cost of missing a cow's heat at $50-100 per occurrence. This means that in a herd of 100 cows with the dairy farmer missing only one heat period per cow the cost is well over $7,500 each year.

Scientist Greg Lewis at Virginia Tech University hopes to drastically reduce this "invisible cost" for dairy farmers. He's working to perfect an implant to automatically detect a cow's heat period and record the information on computer for use by the farmer. Lewis says he can detect an amazing 94 percent of all heat periods with his method. He says that under experimental conditions his method can even detect pregnancy as early as 25 days after conception.

Lewis' implant takes reading based on the changes in reproductive tissue during the heat cycle. When a cow comes into heat her reproductive tissue absorbs water. As a result, the tissue conducts electricity better since the cells are separated by bodily fluids and the electrical resistance of the tissue, or its impedance, is reduced.

With constant measurements of the cow's impedance levels, it's relatively easy to identify the drop in impedance that signals a heat period. But it's still not possible to pinpoint the moment that heat commences. The bodily changes are so gradual that Lewis can only identify a 10-12 hour window marking the onset of heat.

In the average cow, heat lasts 12-24 hours with ovulation following in 12-18 hours after the end of heat, so dairy farmers usually breed a few hours following the first time they notice a cow in heat. With Lewis' information the insemination schedule remains the same, there is just a more reliable indication that a cow came into heat.

Lewis says he hopes his research will make it possible for technology to be affordable to any dairy producer. "I want to simplify the design enough that the implants can sell for $25," says Lewis. "If we can do that then anybody can afford to use this system."

The design that Lewis is now using requires that each cow carry an implant along her vaginal wall. (She can carry the same implant throughout her time in the milking herd.) All these transmitters then communicate via radio with a computer that records changes in each cow's reproductive tract.

The only expenses for a producer would be one implant per cow and a central computer with radio receiver. (The computer can also be used for general farm management.) Lewis estimates the total cost of the system at somewhere near $13,000 for a 100 cow herd, including $3,000-$4,000 for a computer. But if the system saves a producer $75 per cow per year (and studies suggest this is a very realistic estimate) the entire system is paid for in two years.

"It's the most exciting thing I've ever worked on," Lewis says. "Especially since I'm working with outstanding engineers. These people know dairying and help make the technology usable for farmers."

"I've been fortunate to team up with telemetry (radio transmission) experts in a small engineering company," he says. "These guys already have the expertise and technology available to solve many of the challenges of this project."

Lewis and the collaborating engineers have reduced the size of the implant down to about 1 1/4 inches by 1/2 inch. This includes all the measuring equipment, transmitting equipment and a power supply. But the goal is to shrink the size of the implant still further.

"We want to cut the chance that the implant will be dislodged during normal activity or calving," says Lewis. "So far we've had cows with the implants for three years with no side effect, no infections, no dislodged implants."

Keeping the size of the implant small also makes the surgery easier to insert it along the vaginal wall. The operation is very simple and can be completed in less than an hour.

If Lewis and his team can cut the cost of the device while shrinking it even further, he will be able to meet his goal of having the implants available for the public in three years. Lewis hopes to one day be able to precisely pinpoint the ideal time to inseminate and further improve conception rates.

"The technology exists to make the measurements and apply the data," he says. "We just need to assemble it in one place and apply it to this problem."

Once Lewis perfects his implant for dairy cattle there will likely be other species to which this technology could be applied. He says there are obvious applications for horses and the confinement swine industry. He notes that he has even discussed applying his technology to help zoos breed rhinos. •••

Andrew Markwart Photo

Research scientist Greg Lewis holds a transmitter that, when implanted in the cow, will indicate when the cow is ready to be bred.

Three C's of an Agricultural Career: Competition, Communication, Committment

By Price Grisham

Clayton Yeutter:
Harness Your Competitive Spirit

FFA members know that the *real* heartbeat of America is its agriculture—and you get a healthy heartbeat when American agriculture is based on the freedom of the individual—on individual ingenuity, insight, and persistence.

As you consider how to build a self-sufficient future, remember that this same desire for personal liberty made agriculture appealing to your parents, grandparents, all the way back to the founding fathers of our country.

Yet American agriculture may lose that sense of personal independence if it becomes too dependent on the generosity of the taxpayer for its livelihood. Looking into the future must thus focus on restoring agricultural independence.

What will this involve? Competition—both on the home front and abroad.

Let's look at the home front first. How can you help your rural community compete with your urban neighbors for badly needed businesses? The same way you get ready for an FFA contest or participate in a big sports event at school: You build on the strong points—and you develop weak points into strong points.

For example, rural communities are small. Is that a weak point or a strong point? Look for a moment at today's market, and it can become a strong point. Why? Because small businesses have a special and vital "ability"—maneuverability. Modern markets are moving targets—more fluid than any video game. As a result, today's businesses must be flexible enough to maneuver—to meet market demands. Large companies can't act as swiftly as small enterprise, a real plus for rural businesses—if you are open to new ideas to meet new market demands. This is true of diversity in farm production as well—the more flexibly you branch out, the better you can begin meeting those unexpected market needs.

Clayton Yeutter
Secretary of Agriculture

Clayton Yeutter was sworn in as the 23rd United States Secretary of Agriculture February 16.

From July 1985 until the end of the Reagan administration, Yeutter served as U.S. Trade Representative. His previous USDA posts include assistant secretary for international affairs and commodity programs , assistant secretary for marketing and consumer services and administrator of the consumer and marketing service.

Along with many other positions, Yeutter served as president and chief executive officer of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, July 1978 to June 1985.

Yeutter graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1952 with a bachelor's of science degree in animal husbandry. In 1963, he obtained his law degree from the same university, graduating *cum laude* and ranked first in his class. In 1966, he received his doctorate in agricultural economics, again from the University of Nebraska.

Now let's look at competition in the international economy—how does that affect you? More importantly, how can you affect it? The first thing to remember is that in today's world market, agricultural independence does not mean—indeed, *cannot* mean—agricultural isolationism. We are no longer an island unto ourselves. Market demand in other countries directly impacts their farm imports—which we supply. Maneuverability and versatility are again part of an effective arsenal in market targeting. Remember too, that what happens back here with our budget deficit affects the value of the dollar and thus the price competitiveness of your farm products. So the more independent the farm economy can become from federal financial assistance, the better your products can sell abroad.

This sense of independence and healthy competition developes strength and motivates you to go that extra ten percent, after you've striven and given 100 percent. And whether you work directly with production agriculture or with any of the many areas of the agricultural chain, you can always compete with yourself—to do it even better than you did the last time.

So if you want to unlock your future in agriculture, FFA has given you a very special key: Competition—competition balanced and based in service to your community and to your country.

Use that special key—it's your best guarantee.

What does it take to make a leader? Why not ask a leader? In this interview with the current and two immediate past Secretaries of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, The National FUTURE FARMER asked, "What advice would you give to an FFA member considering a career in agriculture?"

Richard Lyng:

Communication is the Key

Richard E. Lyng
Secretary of Agriculture 1986-1989

Richard E. Lyng was sworn in as the 22nd Secretary of Agriculture on March 7, 1986. In his capacity as a member of the President's Cabinet, he supervised the activities of the United States Department of Agriculture until January, 1989.

Lyng is a native of California. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1940.

From 1949 to 1967 he was president of a family seed and bean production and processing company. He was Director of the California State Department of Agriculture in Sacramento from 1967 to 1969, appointed by the then Governor Ronald Reagan.

He was appointed Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1969 and served for four years. From 1973 to 1979, he was President of the American Meat Institute.

He was appointed Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1981 by President Reagan. He served in that position throughout the first Reagan term.

The past fifty years have seen a real turnaround in agriculture—forty acres and a mule won't do it anymore. Even—perhaps *especially*—if you've got the land, you need a solid foundation in your education to keep on learning how to best manage that land.

In the same way that you prepare a field for future harvest, you have to prepare your mind for what's coming up in agriculture. An agriculture career takes preparation broad and deep; Science—chemistry, physics; math—book-keeping and computer literacy; and communication—reading, writing, speaking.

Yet your agricultural goal can be focussed as your preparation is diverse. That's because agricultural education is specialized, but not in the sense that it involves a narrow educational or career field. All of the areas I've mentioned illustrate the knowledge needed in managing just your basic farm unit. If you go into any of the many areas involved in nonproduction agriculture, your focus will again be in your area of expertise—but your options will be diverse.

Fifty years ago, the force that kept the farm functioning was changing from mule power—where animals did most of the work—to "horsepower," where machinery became the muscle. These machines took fewer people to run them, so you had folks who were leaving farming for the city and the suburbs.

That transition has pretty much slowed, and will problbly continue to do so as diverse needs in the agricultural community continue to demand professionals with insight and dedication. Are you good at biology? They need poultry and meat inspectors—the closer to home the agricultural commodity is processed, the better its quality. And veterinarians hold a place of honor close to the family doctor.

If you're better at working on the machinery than on the animals, remember agricultural mechanics—remember, too, that transportation is an important link in the food chain to the consumer. Suppose you like people even more than animals or machines? If that's the case, there's a whole new area of agricultural sales and service that is opening up rapidly.

Let's suppose you enjoy working with machinery, animals, and people, but what really gets you excited is working with the crops and soil: you can investigate chemical pesticides and fertilizers—how to make them safer and more effective. Organically produced vegetables are also increasingly in demand. New methods of production are being investigated.

Why not investigate your own new ideas in agriculture? That's how we look into the future—with new ideas. And that's where communication is the key.

How do you learn? Through communication. How do you use what you've learned to find an even better way? Through communication. How do you share this better way with the others? Through communication.

Communication—the sharing of new ideas—is what draws the diverse future of agriculture together. And that's the strong point of FFA. Not only does it keep the lively mind wanting to learn, it develops the ability to communicate effectively: as a student today, as a teacher tomorrow, or as a community or national leader of the future. With successful communication, everyone can share your success.

(Continued on Page 16)

(Contined from Page 15)

John Block:

More Opportunities Mean More Commitment

Agriculture today offers enormous opportunities in a broad variety of occupational fields. Each student must evaluate where the best opportunity for him or for her personally exists. Those with farming experience who have the opportunity might choose to continue there. Others may choose food processing, marketing, agribusiness.

Employment opportunities in agriculture are continually increasing—and that means that an increased commitment is involved. You need the commitment to learn and keep up—because the more you learn, the more information you have to help you in future endeavors.

There is an actual shortage of agricultural professionals. College graduates with degrees are being snatched up. If I were to set up an agricultural curriculum, I'd include traditional classes such as farm management, livestock and crop production but I'd also include classes that would bring students into the broader horizon of agriculture—it has expanded beyond the "south 40."

Food goes from the farmer to the consumer, but there is quite a lengthy chain involved in that process. My curriculum would attempt to give practical insight into the entire food chain—so that no matter where you were in the chain, you could make an enlightened decision.

Both my son and I were Illinois FFA State Farmers. FFA instills the same high level of commitment in its members, still has some of the same goals and programs of earlier years—but with a mind open to the future, which is part of the organization's name, after all. You still show livestock, but it can be a very different livestock now—and the student who raised it may be either a young man or young woman, from the city, suburbs, or country.

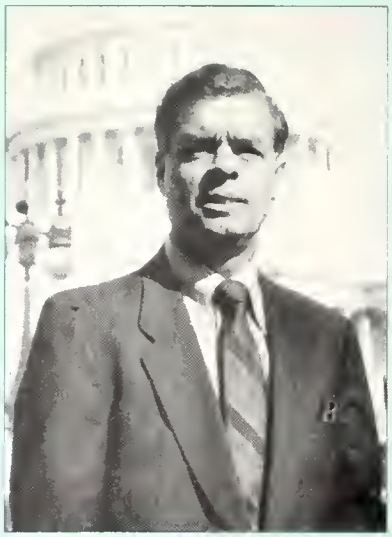
Yet, while FFA still preserves the agricultural environment as a way of life, it has placed a new and necessary emphasis on agriculture as a business—and a business that requires real commitment. It is successful farm businesses that support agriculture as a way of life. If you can't run your farm as a good business, you simply won't be around.

FFA develops solid businesssmen and businesswomen through leadership skills—learning to deal successfully with people, self-confidence, communicating clearly. As I found leadership opportunities in agriculture, these all played an important part. My son enjoyed the competitive nature of the FFA programs, and the commitment they required, especially parliamentary procedure and the livestock competition. These programs stimulate incentive and commitment.

One final thought: international marketing is important and is daily becoming more and more significant to the American agriculturalist. I'm leading a delegation of American grocers to Finland, the Soviet Union and Hungary over the summer, and will have an interview this morning with a reporter from Italy.

International agriculture is an area where there are increased opportunities that require an even stronger commitment from FFA students. International agricultural affairs can perhaps be the most rewarding, but it isn't all glamor. For instance, I don't know any Italian. Those looking at the international agriculture scene need, at some point, to acquire a strong background in at least one foreign language. If we're going to send a representative to Japan, we will want one that can speak Japanese—and I won't be surprised a bit to see international agriculture representatives from FFA, because commitment and leadership are FFA hallmarks.

And yes—I can still fit into my FFA jacket. Maybe it doesn't fit quite like it used to, but it was well made, and will last—just like the FFA values I learned when I first put it on. •••



John R. Block
Secretary of Agriculture 1981-1986

Farmer, soldier, administrator, and Cabinet officer, John R. Block served from 1981 to 1986 as Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture. He is presently the president of the National-American Wholesale Grocers' Association (NAWGA), based in the Washington, DC area. The association represents the wholesale grocery and food-service distribution industry in the US, Canada and overseas.

Prior to being named Secretary of Agriculture by President Reagan, he served for four years as Director of Agriculture for the State of Illinois. He was one of the four remaining Cabinet Officers from the original Reagan Cabinet at the time of his resignation.

Mr. Block was born February 15, 1935 near the family-owned farm in Galesburg, Illinois. After graduating from the US Military Academy in West Point, NY in 1957, he served for three years as an airborne infantry officer and returned to Illinois to form a farming partnership with his father. The farm grew from 300 acres producing 200 hogs a year to 3,000 acres of corn and soybeans producing 6,000 hogs. He retains his investment in the farm now managed by his father and his son.

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Ag's New Professionals:

Animal Nutrition Consultant

If you are interested in animal agriculture, technical service careers present big opportunities according to Bill Smith, a young beef nutritionist with Moorman Manufacturing Co. in Fort Collins, Colorado. The native of Birdeye, Arkansas, has pursued his interest in the cattle business with a Ph.D. in animal nutrition and made a career of helping beef producers become more efficient.

Bill Smith is an animal nutrition consultant with Moorman's, a major feed company. He advises feedlot owners in the West.

"I went to college thinking I'd maybe come home to farm someday," says Smith. "But it just didn't work out." Instead of looking outside of agriculture for career opportunities he pursued his interest in livestock nutrition. He credits his college counselors with encouraging him to pursue advanced degrees and go into the technical service areas of agriculture.

"When I went to graduate school, I majored in nutrition because I found it to be challenging and really applicable to day-to-day production," says Smith. "It just stimulated my interest."

Smith sees his role as a nutrition consultant as similar to today's high school agriculture instruction. They both provide an opportunity to apply high-level science to production agriculture on a daily basis. He notes that to succeed in today's agricultural industries, it's no longer enough to just have "cow sense." Today's successful professionals must be able to apply state-of-the art science to food production.

Smith's training included a bachelor's degree in animal science at Oklahoma State University, a master's degree at the University of Arkansas and finally his doctorate from the University of Wyoming.

After college, Smith put his animal science skills to work for producers as a part of the Texas Cooperative Extension Service. He was a beef cattle specialist near Vernon, Texas, for two years. In that role he worked closely with beef producers applying research findings from universities to their operations. He also worked extensively with FFA and 4-H members in his area, providing beef management training through seminars and workshops.

The next stop for Smith was the Moorman Manufacturing Company, a large feed company based in Quincy, Illinois. He became a beef feedlot nutritionist—part of MoorMan's technical support network—in Dalhart, Texas. There he called on a number of beef operations with a total of over 200,000 head of cattle.

Since then, Smith's been promoted to assistant manager of beef cattle nutritionists. He now helps supervise 10 MoorMan nutritionists in the Western states as well as calling on a few key customers that together control nearly 500,000 head of cattle. These nutritional technical specialists—including Smith—provide their customers with a vast array of services.

The most obvious role is creating rations tailored to customers needs. At MoorMan's, this means analyzing the specific feedstuffs available and combining them into a feeding program that puts lean meat on the cattle most economically.

Smith provides his customers with valuable management information, including all forms of performance evaluation such as rate of gain, cost of feed per pound of gain and cost per day. He even helps them evaluate carcass quality and yield grade data.

He can also help a cattle feeder evaluate the potential profitability of a given lot of cattle based on factors such as feed cost, feed quality, the background of the cattle and their genetic potential. This analysis allows a feeder to pencil out the cost of production well in advance — sometimes even before he buys the cattle.

"I've got a great job," says Smith. "I get to help cattlemen be more profitable, and that's a great feeling."

Smith advises young people with an interest in animal agriculture to look to technical service as a career. "The producers you work with as a nutritional consultant are the very best. It puts a young person on the cutting edge of one of agriculture's biggest industries," he says.

"The key to a career in the technical fields of agriculture is having a solid base of knowledge in math and science." he emphasizes. He points out that involvement in programs such as FFA that apply "hard" sciences to complex areas of agriculture, like animal nutrition, is excellent preparation for a young person who wants to be successful in tomorrow's highly technical agricultural industries. •••

Career: Animal Nutrition Consultant

Education Required: Ph.D. in animal nutrition

Starting Salary: $35,000 - $45,000

Switching From Calves to Kids

Brett Bonham raises Angora goats in beef cattle country

By Shelly Peper

When you live in an area dominated by beef cattle and wheat production, making a switch to raising Angora goats can be a risky business venture. Brett Bonham will tell you that it can also be very rewarding.

As a freshman member of the Cordell, Oklahoma FFA chapter, Bonham was faced with dropping cattle prices and dwindling profits in his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program. He decided to take a risk that resulted in increased profits and a national FFA proficiency award in specialty animal production.

"When prices were down on everything, I had to have an alternative," said Bonham. "I bought the goats because they were something different."

In 1985, Bonham purchased 150 female Angora goats, or nannies, from a ranch in Texas. When these mohair-producing goats arrived at his farm, the challenges were just beginning.

"The toughest thing I faced was trying to keep the goats out of the hot wire (electric fence)," he said. "They'd go right through it, and once one goes, they all go."

The challenges continued when "kidding" season arrived.

"You have to be right there when the kids are born," said Bonham. "They have to get milk when they're born or you might as well mark them down as a loss."

Management can be intense for the first week of the kidding season. Bonham said as many as 50 or 60 kids may be born each day during that time.

Bonham cares for his valuable goats by giving the animals medicine to prevent overeating disease and treating them for two kinds of lice that could destroy both the goat and its mohair. The lice treatments may be the most important because profits come from the Angoras' mohair.

Bonham has his goats clipped both in March and again in August. Each adult goat usually produces seven to nine pounds of hair per clipping. That's about twice the average number of pounds per goat produced in Texas, according to Bonham. Last year the mohair sold for about $2.20 per pound for the adult hair and $4.00 per pound for the kid hair.

"We run the goats on high protein pasture (alfalfa pasture in the summer and wheat pasture in the winter) and that helps the hair to grow faster," said Bonham, 19. "Although the hair gets more coarse, the increased weight more than makes up the difference in the texture when the hair is sold.

Hal Miller Photo

Brett Bonman's Angora goats yield seven to nine pounds of mohair twice a year.

The mohair from Bonham's goats is sold to Ozona Hair and Wool in Ozana, Texas. Like any other market, the price for mohair fluctuates. However, the U. S. Department of Agriculture provides a subsidy to the Angora producer. In 1988, the government provided a guaranteed support price of $4.69 per pound (a 148 percent subsidy) for the mohair sold, according to Dr. Frank Pinkerton, extension goat specialist from Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma. That guaranteed support price has been set at $4.58 per pound for 1989.

With the help of the subsidy and the sale of kids to other Angora breeders, the young entreprenuer earns $160 per goat, and with 25 goats to an acre that adds up to about $4,000 profit per acre, according to Ron Wright, Cordell FFA advisor.

Bonham has expanded his program to include 50 registered nannies and billies (male goats) as well as 150 grade nannies.

The profits were high enough that the goats had paid for themselves during the first year and I was able to buy additional nannies," said Bonham, former Cordell FFA president. "This is the moniest-making deal I've ever seen."

The greatest demand for mohair is in the form of knitting yarn, and the demand has been increasing because the fiber becomes fire resistant after the oil has been removed from it. Mohair is blended with other fibers to make the fabric used for airline seats, draperies and carpets. Sweaters, coats and other clothing items can also be made from mohair-blended fabrics.

The kidding and clipping seasons are the "peak" times for an Angora goat producer like Bonham. Other times of the year his routine is less hectic than caring for other species of livestock. He checks the goats on a regular basis to make sure none of them are caught in a fence or injured. His only other concern is predators like coyotes, but his Great White Pyranese guard dogs solve that problem.

"The dogs sleep during the day and bark most of the night," said Bonham. "They scare away the coyotes usually, but if the coyotes came around, the dogs are big and mean enough to handle the situation." •••

The Specialty Animal Production proficiency award is sponsored by Purina Mills, Incorporated and Country General Stores as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Kansas City, Here We Come!

62nd National FFA Convention Promises Excitement

Important FFA issues will take center stage during the 62nd National FFA Convention, November 9-11 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Convention delegates representing members from all 50 states and Puerto Rico will be voting on revised versions of FFA ceremonies and the FFA Creed. They will also vote on three FFA constitutional amendments which would create a new system of delegate distribution and involvement, drop quotas for the American FFA Degree and extend membership for those students traveling on international exchange programs.

After the delegates cast their votes early in the week, business sessions will give way to top speakers, national contest finals, public speaking finals, naming of national proficiency winners and the Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America, selection of the 1989-90 national officers and many more events.

Speakers

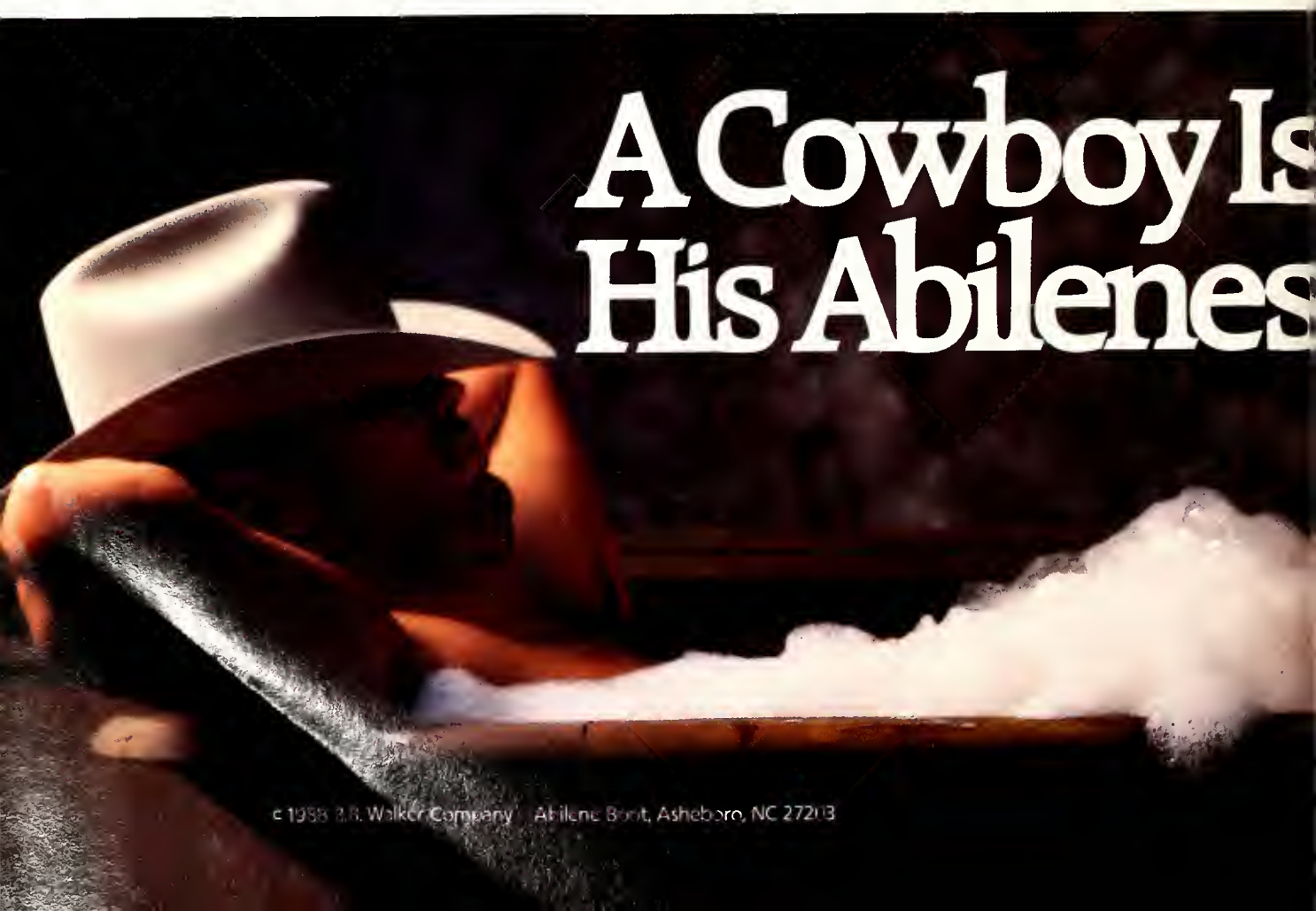
Guest speakers include Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw, educator Mamie McCullough and motivational speakers Ty Boyd and Bill Sanders. Bradshaw is sponsored by the H.J. Heinz Company Foundation and McCullough is sponsored by Farmland Industries, Inc., both as special projects of the National FFA Foundation. A laser light show, sponsored by ICI Americas, Inc., will highlight the third convention session.

National officers Dana Soukup, Jeff Johnson, Brad Chambliss, Warren Boerger, Jaye Hamby and Jeff Isom will lead the convention activities for the week.

Soukup, national FFA president, says the officer team is gearing-up for the event. "The convention is the highlight of the year for our team and we're working to make it a memorable experience for everybody," said Soukup. "It's going to be an important convention for our organization because of the decisions the delegates are going to make. All FFA members should be keeping an eye on what happens in Kansas City."

He also says that the national convention is often the motivational turning point for an FFA member. "It's important to remember that this is a showcase of role models for all FFA members. If you or someone you know takes part in the national convention, even if it's walking across the stage to receive a certificate or helping in the Courtesy Corps, it can be the spark that just ignites a member. It was for me."

The 1990 national theme "FFA—Leading the Challenge" will be introduced at the convention. The theme emphasizes



Convention delegates will have a number of important issues to discuss and vote on during their business sessions on Wednesday, November 8.

FFA's role in preparing young leaders for the challenges awaiting them in the world of agricultural careers.

Alumni and Career Show

The National FFA Alumni Convention and the National Agricultural Career Show are scheduled in conjunction with the FFA convention. They are held in H. Row Bartle Hall, located next to the Municipal Auditorium.

The Alumni convention will be held in room 209, Wednesday, November 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. The annual Alumni auction will begin at 5:50 p.m. in room 213 Bartle Hall. A 1990 half-ton 4x4 Chevy Scottsdale pickup truck, a Yamaha "Breeze" ATV, and two Delta Airlines tickets to Hawaii or continental U.S. city are a few of the items that will be up for bidding.

The popular Alumni leadership workshops will again be held in Bartle Hall on Thursday and Friday. This year's workshops will feature former national officers Kelli Evans, Terri Hames, Kevin Eblen, Kevin Yost, Dean Harder, Scott McKain and Mark Mayfield.

American Royal

This is the first year that two American Royal Ambassadors—one male, one female—will be named. The Ambassadors will be recognized a official spokespersons for the American Royal and will receive scholarships to the college or university of their choice. The new Ambassador program replaces the American Royal Queen contest.

Performing at the American Royal during convention week will be Patty Loveless, November 8; Shenandoah, November 9; Rodney Crowell, November 10 and Don Williams, November 11. Tickets range from $ 4-11.

Satellite Coverage

The National FFA Organization is negotiating with RFD-TV to uplink 16 hours of live convention coverage over five broadcasts November 9-11. The broadcasts would be unscrambled and carried over Westar V, Transponder 9D. Channel 17.

Tentative times of broadcast are: 2:05-5:05 p.m. and 7:05-10:35 p.m. on Thursday, November 9 and Friday, November 10. On Saturday, November 11, the convention would be broadcast from 12:05-5:35 p.m. The entire 14 1/2 hours would also be rebroadcast on Thanksgiving Day, November 23.

Check the November issue of *Between Issues* for the latest information on satellite broadcast schedules and all convention activities. •••

Andrew Markwart Photo

It was "standing room only" on the south lawn of the White House when the WCP group joined 4-H, Boy Scouts and others to welcome home President Bush and the first lady after their trip to Europe in July.

Joan Nold Photo

Heavy Metal... Members visited the Iwo Jima Memorial to honor American heros and met some real-life ones along the way.

Hot Fun in the Summer!

WCP groups have a cool time despite Washington heat

For this year's Washington Conference Program (WPC) participants, it was a summer of gooy, sticky heat as the temperature and humidity in Washington, D.C. hung in the 90's for most of June and July.

In all, almost 1,600 FFA members attended the one-week conferences this summer from June 12 to July 29. The six conferences are packed with workshops that focus on leadership, personal development, ways to improve FFA chapters and what's new in FFA programs.

The WCP groups also visit the National FFA Center, Mount Vernon and a host of Washington, D.C. attractions. Most of the members met with their congressmen and senators during the conference. Some even got to see President Bush on the White House lawn. •••

Scott Stump Photo

Don't try this at home... While waiting for President Bush to land in his helicopter at the White House, this member was caught adding stars and stripes to his national blue and ·orn gold. Official dress was enforced before he president landed.

Joan Nold Photo

I feel good... Who said workshops had to be boring? WCP counselors spent many hours planning work sessions that were entertaining and informative.

Joan Nold Photo

Lean on me... The new Washington Conference t-shirt was a cool change-of-pace from the official jacket when touring the Washington Monument and other D. C. landmarks.

Sylvia Walker, parliamentarian of the Midway, North Carolina FFA Chapter, said the conference, "makes you a better person and a better leader."
Scott Stump Photo

Andrew Markwart Photo

Senator Charles Grassley, Iowa, enjoys a light moment on the Capitol steps with members during the fourth week of the conference.

Joan Nold Photo

Joan Nold Photo

Cardboard cutouts of Washington celebrities, such a Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, made for some fun snapshots to show mom and dad.

During the summer, many congressmen, including Wes Watkins, Oklahoma, talked to members from their home state about agriculture, government and how things were going back home.

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THE Heartbeat OF AMERICA TODAY'S TRUCK IS CHEVROLET™

A Tradition of Excellence: Profiles of the Stars

Meet the eight regional Star Farmers and Star Agribusinessmen

By Lynn Hamilton

The 1989 National FFA Convention will be a mixture of change and tradition. New emblems will be displayed and new junior high FFA members will be attending. For the first time, members will cross the stage to receive the American FFA Degree instead of the American Farmer Degree.

But through all of the changes, one of the oldest traditions of the organization will stand solid — the Stars Over America. The Star Farmer awards program began in 1929, and today young people are being honored for the same achievements as sixty years ago; excellence in agricultural production.

Twenty years ago, the growth of agricultural careers called for another awards program. The Star Agribusinessman of America began to share the spotlight in 1969. These programs recognize the best young agriculturalists in the nation, carrying on FFA's traditional purpose of preparing members for careers and leadership in agriculture.

The 1989 stars have been selected from the 698 American FFA Degree recipients. Less than two-tenths of one percent of FFA members achieve this degree, and only one out of every 50,000 gets to stand on the star platform in Kansas City.

A common thread of hard work and dedication is woven through each of these member's stories.

Jim Stern
Eastern Star Agribusinessman

Jim Stern has proven that you don't have to be raised on a farm to excel in agriculture today.

Stern, 21, grew up just outside of Philadelphia. He didn't experience farm life until he was 12 years old, when his family moved to Machipongo on Virginia's Eastern Shore. They purchased 15 acres of land and ventured into cash crops. Snap beans were a failure that year, so the family changed plans and started a nursery business.

As a freshman in high school, Stern was ready for more challenges, and started working at Zieger and Sons, Inc., a rose-growing business. After four years of experience, he was ready to try another field.

"Although I enjoyed the horticulture industry, I didn't feel that I was working to improve the environment in any significant way by producing quality cut roses," he said. So he started working with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, satisfying his desire to learn while serving the community.

His experiences as a member of the Northampton FFA Chapter provided a good training ground for the community seminars he conducted.

Stern is attending Virginia Tech majoring in agricultural education. He hopes to become an agricultural instructor, and also plans to become a partner in the family nursery business.

David Tometich
Central Star Agribusinessman

As the youngest of 15 children, David Tometich is used to being last in line. That hasn't stopped him from rising to the top of the FFA as one of this year's star agribusinessmen.

Tometich, 18, grew up on a 160-acre farm near Muscatine, Iowa. "Much of my confidence, pride and work ethic has been related directly to the way I was raised," he says. "I was always working with people who were more mature and expected results, not excuses."

This background enabled him to start his own sheep shearing business at the age of 16. On his first day, he sheared eight sheep in 12 hours. Today, he can shear 120 in less than nine hours. His skill has been recognized by others in the industry; he placed fourth in the 1988 National Sheep Shearing Contest in his age division.

In addition to shearing more than 6,000 sheep during his two years in business, Tometich is also a buyer for Goenwold Fur and Wool Company, and has marketed almost 40,000 pounds of wool with his enterprise.

A member of the Muscatine FFA Chapter, Tometich shares his time and skills with others. He frequently donates time for demonstrations, and is teaching more than 20 fellow FFA members the art of shearing.

After receiving his degree in agricultural education from Iowa State University, he plans to work in either sales and marketing or teaching.

(Continued on Page 30)

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Robert Wolfe
Western Star Agribusinessman

As far as Robert Wolfe is concerned, the early bird gets the worm—or the corn, in this case. He has proven his business expertise with a sweet corn and potato marketing operation in his hometown of Hermiston, Oregon.

Most summer mornings, Wolfe, 20, can be found in his 18-acre sweet corn field by 4:30. After the corn is sorted and stored in his walk-in cooler, Wolfe makes his marketing and delivery rounds. He believes his dependable,

seven-day delivery system is the key to his success.

A member of the Hermiston FFA Chapter, Wolfe learned that beginner's luck doesn't work in business. "I gave away more corn than I sold the first year," he says. He planted an unusual variety, yellow and white Sugar Dot, and had to develop his market.

He was successful, and his 1988 sales totaled 6,500 dozen—but Wolfe decided to challenge himself further. He spotted an opportunity when the potato market fell through in 1986. His family's potatoes were not getting sold, so Wolfe began brokering and delivering potatoes with his corn.

Marketing and producing require very different skills, Wolfe soon found. He purchased fresh potatoes from a local processing plant and then priced them competitively enough to sell, but insuring a profit for himself. Since 1986, he has brokered 180,000 pounds of potatoes.

Wolfe currently attends Blue Mountain Community College, majoring in agricultural marketing.

Barry Todd
Southern Star Agribusinessman

Barry Todd has accomplished a great deal in the FFA—but as an eighth grader, he hadn't even planned to join the Loris FFA Chapter. Today, he is one of the most successful members in the nation.

Todd, 20, of Longs, South Carolina, works in his father's agricultural machinery shop. Since the tenth grade, he has graduated from watching his older brother and father work after school to being totally responsible for customer projects.

"We do everything from farm equipment to heavy machinery," Todd says. Though he likes welding, Todd prefers to work on the lathes, machines which shape metal. "You can see what you're making," he says. "It's interesting to start with round stock metal and have a trailer axle made when you're through."

Todd's most unusual job was one for IBM. An order came from New York to make 2 1/2" by 3" aluminum boxes for the backs of computers. It was also one of the longest projects he has worked on—it took two months to build 46 of those little boxes, he said.

He credits his FFA advisor, Benjamin Hardee, for his success in the organization. "I wouldn't be in FFA if it wasn't for him," Todd says. He hadn't planned to sign up for agriculture as an eighth-grader, but Hardee talked him into it and got Todd's schedule changed.

His future plans include becoming a full partner in his father's business.

Scott McLamb
Eastern Star Farmer

Many people only wish for their dreams to come true, but Scott McLamb is building his field of dreams today.

McLamb, 20, of Roseboro, North Carolina, is continuing a long family tradition of excellence in production agriculture. As a freshman, he decided to pursue farming as his career goal and immediately took steps to realize his dream.

McLamb decided to specialize in livestock management. His father would quiz him on proper procedures for grinding and mixing feed, as well as nutrition. His responsibilities grew as he learned.

"Eventually, my father and I began to switch roles in the farming operation," he says. "I no longer stood at my father's side and watched while he performed the task; I was the one who stepped in to do the job. " Today, McLamb has 50 percent ownership of the family farm. He plans to acquire full ownership when his father retires.

A member of the Midway FFA Chapter, McLamb's supervised agricultural experience program consists of beef, swine, tobacco, grains and oil crops, and fiber crops. His excellence in cotton production was recognized when he was named the 1987 National FFA Fiber Crops Proficiency winner.

To ensure his future success in farming, McLamb now attends North Carolina State University, majoring in field crop technology.

William Courter
Central Star Farmer

Bill Courter, as a freshman in high school, chose his career and started on his path to success.

Courter, 21, grew up on his parents' 470-acre diversified farm near Alma, Michigan. When a farm adjoining his parents' went for sale during his first year of high school, Courter's father wanted his answer. "I decided farming was what I wanted to do and we bought the farm," Courter says.

Although many opportunities existed within the family's current operation, Courter decided to branch out with his own projects. Beginning with 11 gilts and a boar his freshman year, Courter's SAE program has expanded to 50 sows, 300 dairy animals, 200 Holstein steers and 775 acres of crops.

Courter decided to diversify his operation while in the tenth grade to include dairying. After convincing his

father to double the size of the milking parlor, he got to work and planned the system. Today they milk 135 cows, and the herd milk average has increased from 15,500 pounds to 18,900 pounds per cow. Courter's goal is to achieve a 20,000-pound herd average in the next two years.

Coulter attends classes at Michigan State University during winter semesters. "I feel a manager needs to be informed about new technologies and needs to keep the operation open to changes of efficiency, production, and profitability," he says.

A member of the Alma FFA Chapter, Courter currently owns 25 percent of his father's operation, and eventually plans to become sole owner of the farm.

Jay Overton
Western Star Farmer

Jay Overton has come a long way from playing with toy farm equipment as a youngster. Today, toy tractors of his childhood have been replaced with a $98,000 inventory of farm equipment.

Overton, 21, of Pond Creek, Oklahoma, has always loved his work. "Farming is a way of life for me, one which gives me an indescribable sense of joy and happiness every day," he says. A love for the land runs deep in his family; it's a four-generation tradition.

Starting his SAE program with feeder cattle, wheat and agricultural mechanics projects, Overton found opportunities to expand his enterprise. He has increased his wheat production from 15 acres to 860 acres, and his stocker and feeder calf operation has grown from 160 head to more than 600 today.

Computers are a vital component of Overton's management practices. He designed a program to fit his record-keeping needs, which helps him keep track of that all-important profit margin. His extensive work with computers gave him the distinction of being a top 10 finalist in the national FFA Computers in Agriculture competition in 1987.

A member of the Pond Creek FFA Chapter, Overton believes a good producer must also be able to work with and understand his equipment. He was the 1987 state agricultural mechanics proficiency winner.

Overton attends Oklahoma State University majoring in agricultural economics and agricultural education. He plans to continue farming after he completes his degree.

Tony Janes
Southern Star Farmer

Tony Janes knows quality is as important as quantity in the farming business. Janes, 21, of West Carroll Parish, Louisiana, has used this principle to become one of the top young farmers in the nation.

Rather than working to expand his beef, rice and grain operation, he chose to improve his production by incorporating agricultural engineering practices. Janes and his father constructed reservoirs, installed irrigation systems and leveled the land to make it more

useful for rice production. They have taken advantage of USDA set-aside programs to improve the land for more efficient use later.

His beef operation has undergone improvements as well. Janes' cattle profits increased after adding a liquid feed supplement and upgrading the pastures. Janes also experimented with new breeds of cattle.

A member of the Oak Grove FFA Chapter, Janes believes much of his future success in agriculture will depend upon his education. "Although I hope to farm for a living, the agricultural industry is becoming more specialized daily, and I feel that getting a degree is essential for farming successfully in the next century," he says.

Janes is studying agricultural business, with specialization in crop production at Northeast Louisiana University. He plans to farm or work in an agricultural business upon graduation.

While in high school, Janes won several state proficiency awards for his outstanding SAE program. •••

FFA Unveils Agricultural Sales Contest

Contest is geared for members with agribusiness interests

By Jody Pollok

Just as artists unveil their newest creations, the FFA is now unveiling its newest work—the Agricultural Sales Contest. It enables all FFA members, no matter what their background, to compete in a contest that prepares them for a career in sales.

Bill Stagg Photo

The Agricultural Sales Contest will put FFA members in real sales situations.

Over 2,600 employment opportunities in agriculture and natural resource sales, marketing and merchandising will go unfilled each year according to a 1985 USDA national assessment of employment opportunities for college graduates. The [illegible] also said there won't be enough jobs for [illegible]mers, ranchers, communicators and ed[illegible]tors given the amount of people who w[illegible] career in those areas.

FFA is respond[illegible] to these changing trends by developing new contests such as the Agricultural Sales Contest. "Agricultural sales is a major en[illegible] for young people into the field of. Agribusiness has been recently advising us that the real future for jobs in agriculture is in agrimarketing and sales. We are very excited about the interest from teachers about the new Agricultural Sales Contest," said Ted Amick, FFA program specialist-contests.

Industry experts agree. "Agribusiness has a crying need for well-trained, motivated sales and marketing people. We think this contest can be an excellent source of those individuals," said Charlie Scholes, of Vicon, which is sponsoring the Agricultural Sales Contest as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. "The program will enable FFA members to stay in agriculturally related businesses even though they may not find a place in production agriculture."

The new contest was tested during the 1988-89 school year in Arizona, California, Nebraska, New York and Washington and is now ready to be offered to all states. The Agricultural Sales Contest is not a national contest but is available to every state that decides to participate. Those states interested in the contest will send five representatives to a special introductory training session which will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, during the National FFA Convention. Some states have had sales contests in recent years, but this is the first time a nationally introduced contest for state and local youths, with standard rules, has been offered.

The new contest has sparked interest in many teachers because it offers an opportunity for students with interests in agribusiness. "None of the three students I had in the contest had a farm background, so they saw it as an opportunity for a contest that really was preparing them more for the agribusiness side of agriculture," said Beth Spencer, FFA advisor of the state winning Tri-Valley Central FFA Chapter in New York.

The contest consists of three parts. During their sales presentation, each contest team member selects an agricultural product from one of seven areas: agricultural mechanics, agricultural production, agricultural products and processing, agricultural supplies and services, forestry, ornamental horticulture, natural resources and rural recreation.

The seven-minute sales presentation is designed to help students develop confidence while selling a product.

Contestants are judged on how well they are prepared for the sale, determine and fill customer needs and wants, allow the customer to participate, identify and handle customer objections and close the sale. "The Agricultural Sales Contest reinforced their communication skills, but more importantly it taught them some new skills and that marketing is more than simply selling a product," said George Separich, agribusiness professor, Arizona State University.

An objective test measures students' skills in agricultural product marketing, advertising and promotion, customer relations, product displays, telephone skills, market analysis and customer prospecting, job application and interviewing for a sales position.

Agribusiness has a crying need for well-trained, motivated sales and marketing people.

Different hands-on activities make up the last part of the contest. Every other year, a different set of skills will be tested. One year FFA members will be judged on their customer relations, advertising and promotion skills and job application and interview. The next year participants will be judged on their skills in telephone communication, product display and market analysis.

Participants are put into real life situations selected by the contest chairperson. Problems will deal with a range of areas from technical information to human relation problems. FFA members work with returning sold merchandise, defective merchandise or a customer's lack of understanding about the use of merchandise.

In the advertising and promotion section of the contest, participants are given a variety of different situations that deal with broadcast media, print media or a point-of-sale advertising poster.

In the poster portion of the contest members are given 30 minutes to develop a poster to accompany an agricultural sales display. In the print media area, which is either newspaper or magazine related, contestants must prepare copy for an advertisement and design a layout. In broadcast media 30 minutes is given to produce a 15-second commercial to be

used on either radio or TV. Members must prepare the copy and they are furnished with props to be used in the making of their commercials.

A job application is completed for an entry level retail sales job. Contestants also have to compose a cover letter which outlines their strengths and qualifications. Communication skills are tested during the job interview portion of the contest.

The telephone skills section tests the contestants skills in a three-five minute telephone call as selected by the contest coordinator. The contestant either receives or places a call.

Contestants will have 20 minutes to set up a product display in one of the other hands-on areas. "Members learn real skills like eye-catching ways of setting up a display and display balance, " said Spencer.

One of the most challenging areas of the contest is the market analysis. A profile is given to each contestant which contains product descriptions, existing competition, production capacity/product availability, pricing, description of present or potential retailers and demands, transportation distribution, storage information and existing marketing problems. One written page is accepted by the judges and 20 minutes are allowed for the preparation. Five minutes are allowed for the presentation.

The Big Payoff

Nicole Drobysh, member of the Tri-Valley Central chapter said, "I learned all the marketing in my ag class and this was just one way I could apply it. I want to go into business and marketing so this contest will help me."

Students and teachers have found that the communication aspect of the contest is just as important as the financial area.

According to Roy Denniston, New York FFA executive secretary, "Students learn the ideas of organizing themselves and developing presentations. No matter what area of work you go into you're going to find that being able to meet the public and being able to communicate effectively is important."

Those who helped develop and test the new contest expect it to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for many FFA members. "It's the first contest I've seen that students can come from any area and compete in the same contest," said Ron Crawford, Washington agriculture education. "The strength of the contest is allowing students to sell what they want to sell. That's where we're really going to get the student's interest." •••

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Rural Youth Bound for Ag Careers Beyond the Farm

An abundance of jobs in biotechnology, finance, engineering, marketing and related fields are beckoning rural youth

Rural youth are committed to a future in agriculture. It may not be on the farm tending corn fields or cattle, but in a laboratory cloning plant cells or in a trading pit hedging hog futures.

That's the consensus of 3,056 youths who responded to a recent *Partners* survey asking them to comment on their future career plans and the challenges of growing up in rural America today.

When asked whether or not they plan to pursue an ag-related career, 63 percent of the survey respondents living on farms said yes, the 32 percent of those living in town said yes.

These students are making a wise choice, according to current employment statistics. College graduates are entering a job market with increased opportunities and starting salaries that are higher than ever before.

"It's the strongest market for agricultural graduates that we've had in 10 years," says Allan Goecker, assistant dean of agriculture at Purdue University and a member of a USDA committee on higher education.

The USDA study group forecasts a national shortage of 4,000 agriculture and life science graduates annually through 1990. Some experts predict the shortfall will continue longer than that. Much will depend on the number of vocational-technical and college-bound students who pursue an agriculture-related profession.

The Doors Are Wide Open

Julie Classen, 19, is eager to land a job in ag sales or marketing after completing her studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Classen, a sophomore, is enrolled in an honors program for ag business majors. She's focusing on courses to help her fulfill her dream of a career in ag public relations. And she's confident she'll find the right job once she's earned her degree. "There are so many opportunities in ag today—marketing, computers, economics, animal science—the doors are wide open, we just have to know how to get in," she says.

In addition to a degree, Classen will have a wealth of experience to bring to her first job. As Nebraska's 1988-89 state FFA president, her leadership opportunities have included meeting the president of the United States, speaking to many of the 5,000 FFA members in her home state, and competing in a variety of national speech and record-keeping contests.

Classen knows the production side of agriculture, too. She's helped manage her family's diversified farm where she finished and marketed 170 feeder pigs and grew 120 acres of irrigated crops on land she rented from her dad. Classen is one of a growing number of farm youth who are preparing for a future in agricultural business marketing or biotechnology instead of returning to the family farm.

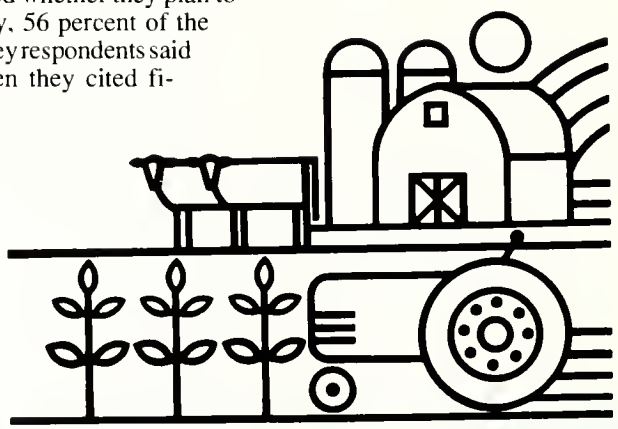
When asked whether they plan to farm someday, 56 percent of the *Partners* survey respondents said no. Most often they cited financial risk, market uncertainty and long hours as reasons why. One youth commented, "I'm trying to find a reason to stay with farming. The hours are long and hard, and the pay is low." Another asked, "Will I be able to financially handle farming after I finish college?"

Stewards of the Soil and Water

Youth who plan to farm—44 percent—believe that grasping new technology will be key to their success. They also cited the importance of soil and water stewardship. "As farmers, we have to do a better job of managing our natural resources," a Minnesota youth commented.

The number of new young farmers entering the business is declining every year, according to USDA figures. An average of 29,000 people under 35 became farmers each year from 1975-78. However, from 1979-82, that number dropped to less than 18,000. If the trend continues, the number of commercial-size operations could decline from 884,000 in 1982 to about 727,000 by 1998, an 18 percent drop.

The long-term trend of bigger farms



A Future On the Farm?

When asked whether or not they plan to farm someday, here's how 3,056 rural youth responded:

Yes 44% **No 56%**

and fewer farmers is not going to change, economists say. However, skilled jobs relating to agriculture are going begging.

"There are at least three jobs available for every one of our students who graduates with a plant science or entomology degree," says Wayne Rush, student relations coordinator for the University of Idaho-Moscow. "There are tremendous opportunities for young people, but they have to be willing to look beyond production agriculture," he says. "The real opportunities lie in international marketing, genetic engineering and environmental studies."

At the University of Idaho, a major campaign launched to change agriculture's image resulted in a 49 percent increase in new student enrollment in the college of ag in 1988 compared to 1987. "Students are perhaps starting to recognize the opportunities," Rush says.

Similar efforts are underway in Minnesota to encourage greater participation in high school agricultural education classes. "We're changing the image of our programs by changing the content and delivery," says Dr. Edgar Persons, head of Agricultural Education for the University of Minnesota. "We're placing much more emphasis on technology, business, computers and leadership."

Vince Sloot credits his internship at a local cooperative with giving him a first-hand look at his college major, ag business. Last spring, Sloot spent six months working in the fertilizer department at Ellsworth (Wisconsin) Farmers Union Co-op. "I was fairly green when I started," he recalls. "but the internship was a great 'learn by doing' experience."

Co-op Manager Rich Ruemmele was impressed with Sloot's performance, and says he quickly learned the business. "Vince left no stone unturned," he says.

After completing his degree in May, Sloot traveled to Australia on a year long agricultural exchange program for rural youth. He views the trip as an opportunity to explore his career options.

Youth who answered the *Partners* survey are making career decisions at a young age. Forty-nine percent of the respondents who said they are planning a career in agriculture are 16-19 years old; 41 percent are age 13-15.

Becky Southworth, a 15-year-old high school sophomore, has already decided she'll become a veterinarian. After she finishes college, she'd like to return to her home in Gibbon, Minnesota, (population 787) to start her practice. "I want to work here," she says. "This is a great community, but too many people are moving away. We need more businesses to save it."

Concern for Community

Keeping their rural community viable is a concern of many youth who completed the survey. A Wyoming youth says, "I hope I'll be able to graduate from my high school before it closes."

When asked to comment on the biggest challenge they face growing up in rural America, responses included: financing an education, selecting a career, peer pressure, concern for the environment, low commodity process, drought, living too far from home and revitalizing communities.

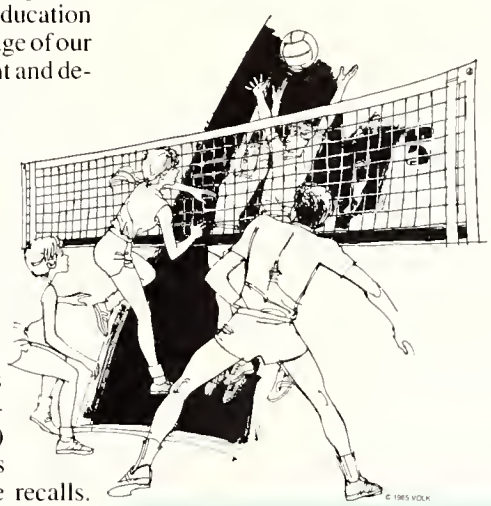
The most vocal youth were 16-19 year-olds, accounting for 55 percent of the survey responses. Thirty-eight percent of the responses were from 13-15 year-olds; and 8 percent came from 20-22 year-olds. Two-thirds of the youth who answered the survey were young men; a third were young women.

While rural youth definitely feel the effects of an agricultural economy in transition, the majority are positive about its future. "I think farming practices and the family farm will undergo many changes in the future, but it will continue to be strong," a youth sums up. Another agrees. "The future of rural America is bright. New technology is helping farmers do a better job. We all have to eat, and our country is the world's largest food producer." •••

Youth Chose Ag-related Careers

Percent of survey respondents who plan to work in agriculture

Youth living on farms 63%
Youth living in town 32%



Sports Are a Favorite Pastime

Here's a breakdown of the most popular activities rural youth participate in:

Athletics 34%
FFA 28%
4H 23%
Other (choir, band, drama club) 12%
Scouts 3%

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A Helping Hand for Veterinarians

Animal technology class sparks interest in students, community

By Becky Brashear

Not often does a twist of luck do much good. But in BelAir, Maryland, the twist of luck has been a positive turn for students at the vo-tech center, the veterinary profession and ultimately the community.

It all happened in a five-minute conversation in early 1988 between the Harford County Vo-Tech Center agriculture course coordinator and a local veterinarian.

Until that point, student enrollment in the school's agriculture program was beginning to dwindle, and the students remaining in the course were becoming bored and depressed with the traditional production agriculture classes.

That's when Naomi Knight, the center's agricultural course coordinator and FFA chapter advisor, asked for help from Dr. Richard Cook, and it's been a success story ever since.

"When I came to the vo-tech center (in 1984) I kept saying, 'there's got to be something that kids can do with animals because there's so many veterinarians in this county and so many people with pets,'" said Knight. "One day the kids said to me 'how about students working with vets?'"

That was all it took for Knight to get up the nerve to run the idea by Dr. Richard O. Cook, owner of BelAir Veterinary Hospital in Northeastern Maryland.

"Dr. Cook was at my school one day and I asked him of his feelings on such a program for students interested in pursuing a veterinarian assistance course. He said 'go for it.'"

She did.

In the first year, seven students successfully completed the veterinary assistance course which is just a part of the center's animal technology/agribusiness program. "It's the first such three-year program of its kind in Maryland," Knight said.

"Students have the opportunity to achieve valuable job skills for employment as a veterinary or animal laboratory assistant, or to explore opportunities in the field and prepare to enter a college program."

Photo by Author

Dr. Richard Cook examines a patient with the help of Tracy Fitzgerald, a graduate of the BelAir animal technology course.

The program has worked wonders for two of the students. Tracy Fitzgerald and Renee Brunet are going to further their education in the care of animals.

"It was a twist of luck for me that I switched from going to school at Edge-

I sit in this tree all morning freezing and wanting to move but dad said stay put and watch this trail. I know there isn't a deer for miles but I also know the look I'd get if.... There. Something's moving through the trees and I can't make it out. A dog. No a deer. It's a deer. There's a deer coming down the trail like nobody's business. A buck...is it a buck? No a doe.. I can't see antlers so it must be a d...NO A BUCK! It **IS** a buck. It's a big huge buck like in the magazines and my muscles go limp, my arms don't move, my hands are shaking and that big giant buck is still coming. Mustn't move. Mustn't move or he'll spot me. His head goes behind a tree and I shift to get a better position but a limb snaps and oh no he's looking right at me that big

wood High School to going to the vo-tech center," said Fitzgerald who graduated from the center this past spring.

But Fitzgerald wasn't so sure the twist of luck was a positive change at first. "When I became involved with agricultural classes at the vo-tech center, they were still being taught as traditional agriculture. I was getting depressed with the courses."

Then things changed at the Harford County Vo-Tech Center in the animal technology/agribusiness program. One of the biggest initial changes was the course name. "The change in the name has made a difference in attracting students to the program," said Knight.

Working closely with the Harford Veterinary Medical Association members and Jeanne Schmidt, a registered veterinary technician, Knight came up with new courses that have not only won the approval of the count's veterinarians, but school officials as well.

And students are finding the course outline so interesting that the class size for this fall nearly doubled. "Thirteen students for a course may not sound like a lot but for a program that was nearly nonexistent several years ago, I'd say the numbers look pretty good," Knight said.

"BelAir is such a suburbanized area anymore. Most of the students who come to the center now have non-farm backgrounds," Knight said.

Now students at the vo-tech center, which is really a high school, can get their vocational training as well as their academic courses.

The animal technology/agribusiness program has been set up so that students receive training in various facets of the agriculture industry—from veterinarian assistance to water and soil conservation and forestry practices. They have classes for two hours a day, five days per week.

"I have veterinarians on the waiting list who want to help the kids."

Fitzgerald, who wants to be involved in environmental studies of animals in the world, said she enjoyed the program because the training she received was so diversified.

Brunet had no background in animals, though her interest centered around working with dogs and cats. She's attending Harford Community College this fall and then she plans to transfer to Essex Community College, enrolling in the veterinarian technician program.

Dr. Cook found a real need for veterinary assistants in Harford County which is part of the reason why he became involved with the vo-tech center's program. And the county's other veterinarians have joined in too. "I get tremendous support from the veterinarians—that's what makes the program work," said Knight. "I have veterinarians on the waiting list who want to help the kids."

"There are a lot of vet assistant jobs available," Knight said. There's a huge turnover of employees because there has been no training for vet assistants— they do a lot of different things."

Last summer, both Tracy and Renee worked at Dr. Cook's veterinary practice. Renee worked as a receptionist and Tracy worked in the kennels.

All of the students enrolled in the center's animal technology/agribusiness program are involved in the FFA. It's a chapter small in numbers, (33) but large on accomplishments.

"The program has been a benefit to the community by helping to supply veterinarians with reliable help. It in turn helps the students gain confidence," Fitzgerald said. •••

grandpa of a buck is looking right at me and here I sit wide open. I freeze solid and for two minutes I don't breathe and the biggest deer ever is going to walk right on by if I don't shoot. Yeah shoot...shoot now shoot right now right now. His head goes down for an acorn and I raise the rifle and put it on his neck and my barrel swims all over him and I'm going to miss. No oh no I'm going to miss I'm going to miss this big monster buck. I suck in a breath and settle on his shoulder, squeeze the trigger, the air explodes and he runs off like I didn't touch him and I can only watch him go.

I'm still in the tree waiting for the trembling to stop and finally it does so I climb down and walk to where I last saw him, take a few more steps and then I see blood. A few drops at first, then more and more until it's easy to follow and now I'm running. Running and stooping and kneeling and running again until he just has to be laying over that next rise. I cross the ridge, there's no deer and instead the trail weakens. A drop here, a drop there. I make ever-widening circles. I come back to the last drop, mark it with my hat and circle again. An hour later the hat hasn't moved. Finally I head back to camp. My glorious wall-hanger buck is gone. And the worst part is no one will believe he was ever there.

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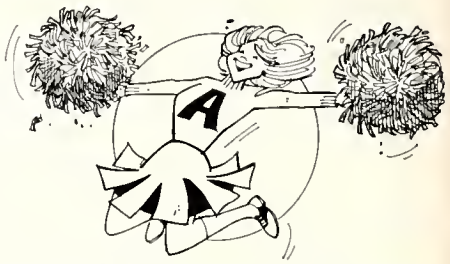

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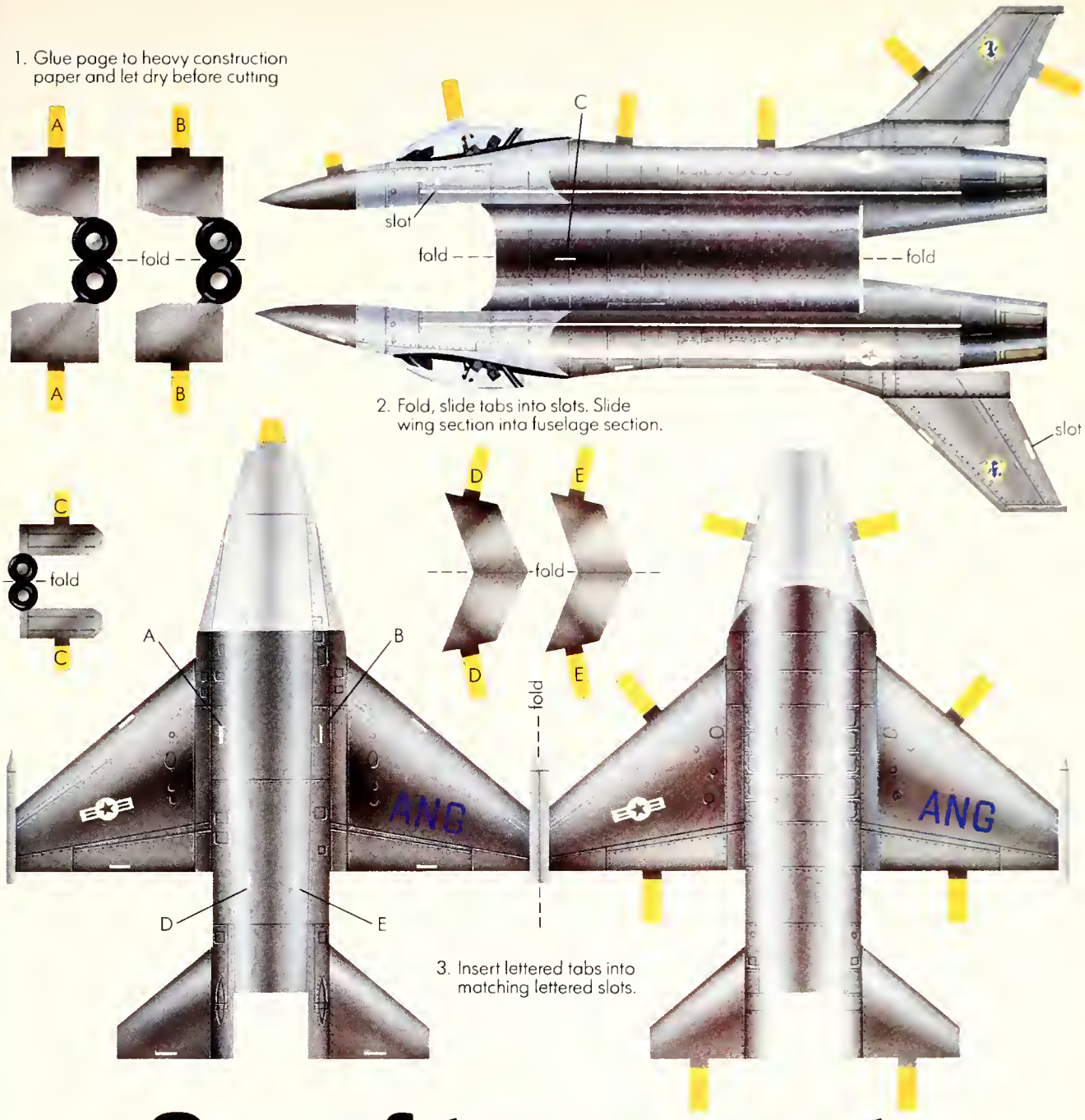

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AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Americans At Their Best.

A2NFYO**109NP

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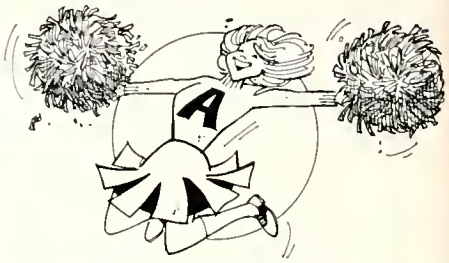

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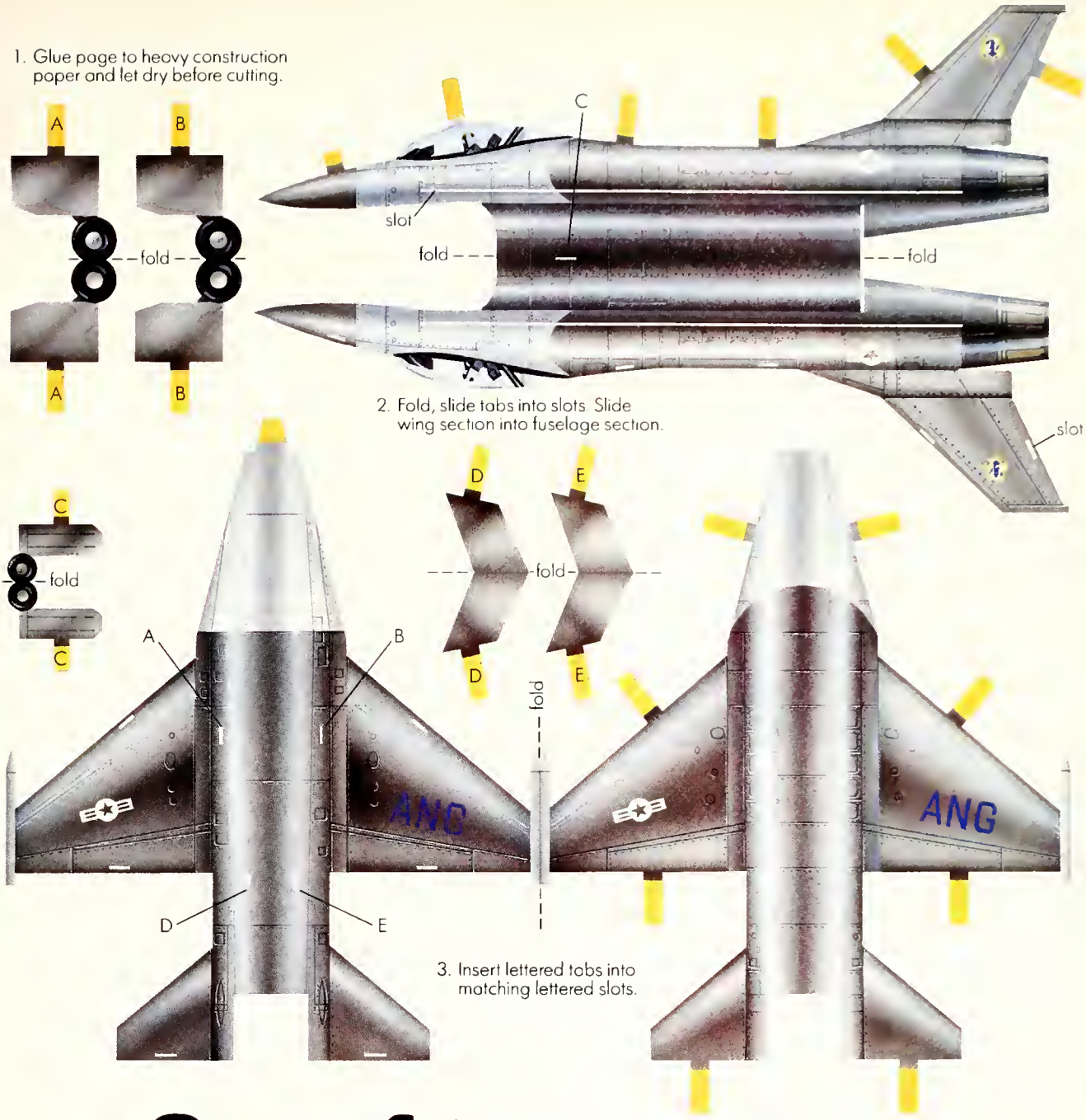

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A new era in dairy production may open through...

Gene Transfer and Cloning

Super milker, healthy, always breeds on schedule—Jeez I'd like to have 40 more just like her," McDonald says of his favorite cow. He may get his wish. Embryo transfer is commonplace, cloned cows are now a reality, and transgenic livestock is on the way. Much of the groundwork for these biological marvels was laid by University of Wisconsin-Madison Agricultural researchers.

Four decades ago geneticist L.E. Casida led a team that produced an "immaculate conception" in a virgin Holstein cow. The researchers used hormones to superovulate a donor cow, causing her ovaries to release more eggs than normal.

The donor cow was then artificially inseminated. Five days later, she was slaughtered and the fertilized eggs recovered from her uterus. The researchers hormonally synchronized a second cow's estrous cycle with the donor cow's. They surgically transferred an embryo into the uterus of a "foster mother" in March 1951; a normal 84-pound calf was born 258 days later.

The lethal embryo-collection technique left much to be desired, especially if used with rare cattle breeds. Researchers later developed non-fatal surgical collection procedures, but embryo recovery remained expensive, and risky for the donor cow. Surgery tied up several skilled personnel for hours. The operation stressed the cow and required general anesthesia—no small matter with a 1,400-pound Holstein.

In the late 1970s O.J. Ginther and Robert F. Rowe of the department of veterinary science devised a non-surgical uterine flush for collecting embryos. The technique rinsed embryos from a superovulated cow's uterus, using gravity and a to-and-fro sloshing action, and took about 20 minutes.

The recovered embryos could then be surgically transferred to stepmother cows. Rowe and M.R. Del Campo later developed a non-surgical implantation technique, inserting the embryos through the cervix and into a uterine horn.

Photo by B. Wolfgang Hoffman

A research technologist removes a nucleus from a cow ovum.

Embryo transfer may never become as common as artificial insemination on the family farm, but it has been useful for outstanding cows—the U.S. livestock breeding industry performed about 150,000 transfers in 1987. The technique may prove invaluable for zoos and other agencies working with endangered species.

Clones—genetic identicals—are experimenters' dream animals. They provide perfect controls for experiments by reducing genetic variation to zero. Breeders would jump at the chance to market a line of supercows, which could come from a bank of frozen embryos, implanted and born after their clonemates had established real-world production records.

Actually, people have been cloning living things for hundreds of years, using only a sharp knife and a jar of water. Every plant grown from a leaf shoot is a genetic duplicate of the plant from which it was cut. Animals are a different matter. Although you can't clone a cow by putting a cow leg in a vase, you can clone one by nuclear transplantation— as UW-Madison animal scientist Neal First and his students demonstrated with the calves Fusion and Copy.

Students in First's lab removed nuclei from cow embryos, then transferred them to immature "common-cow" egg cells that had had their nuclei removed. Thus an eight-cell embryo with eight genetically identical nuclei could produce eight embryos (theoretically, there's no limit to how often this can be done). The cloned embryos were matured in the reproductive tracts of sheep for a short time, then transferred to recipient cows that carried the embryos to term. Fusion and Copy, the first calves conceived using this technique, were born in 1987.

First's lab also produced the first calf born from an egg that was fertilized and matured in culture dish before being implanted in a cow.

Superovulation and embryo transfer allow breeders to multiply scarce exotic cattle breeds and accelerate genetic improvement by expanding the number of offspring from the best cows and proven sires.

Working with Howard Temin of the UW-Madison oncology department, First and his associates are developing a method that "infects" a desired gene into an embryo by attaching the gene to a virus that carries it into the cell's nucleus. This method has produced transgenic mice, and First and Temin are adapting it for use in cattle and swine.

The technique will allow researchers to insert desirable genes from other species into the embryonic cells—for example, genes for disease resistance, increased growth or reproductive efficiency.

Using gene transfer, cloning and storage techniques, breeders could develop a "Genes-R-Us" stock of genetically engineered frozen embryos. Livestock producers could choose proven stock sight unseen, and select for meat or milk production, disease resistance, and other traits.

Ten Tough Terms in this Article

Embryo - An animal in the earliest stages of its development; after fertilization but before the fetal stage.
Estrous cycle - The time during which a cow can be bred.
Gene - A segment of a chromosome that carries information about specific traits of that organism.
Nuclear Transplantation - Transferring the nuclei of one embryo into other egg cells whose nuclei had been removed.
Nuclei - Plural for nucleus, the area of a cell that contains chromosomes and an organisms genetic information.
Oncology - Study of tumors.
Superovulate - When a cow releases more than one egg.
Transgenic - Insertion of specific genes into a nucleus.
Uterus - Area in a cow's reproductive system where the fetus grows.
Virus - A sub-microscopic organism that, in order to reproduce, must invade another cell and use parts of the cell's reproductive machinery.

Hungary—A Country of Contrasts

Proficiency tour discovers agriculture in a Communist country

By Jeri D. Mattics

Photos by Author

Regional dairy proficiency winner Ginger Wilson inspects a hi-tech milking system.

Horse-drawn feed wagons were a common sight on state farms.

Where can you find an ultra-modern 48-head computerized dairy parlor side-by-side with a feedlot where the cattle are fed through the use of horse-drawn wagons?

The 1989 European Proficiency Travel seminar participants found that the government-run "state" farms of Hungary use cutting-edge technology right along with agricultural production methods that have been outdated for decades, and in some cases, centuries.

After touring agricultural production operations in Belgium, France, Switzerland and Austria where small, family-owned and operated farms are the norm, the group was quick to draw comparisons between West and East Europe.

The small, neatly groomed fields of Switzerland and Austria gave way to the large, uneven weedy patches of Hungary's state farms. The farms are operated by the government with hourly employees providing labor. Most are large (over 20,000 acres) and, in many instances, laborers perform tasks that have long been accomplished by machinery in other countries.

There are, however, advantages to this system. Some of the state farms serve as wildlife preserves and almost all of the country's agricultural research occurs on the state farms. Many technologically-advanced practices are used on the state farms which, for economic reasons, could not be used by smaller cooperative or privately-owned farms.

For instance, at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences research facility in Martonvasar, the group toured a 672-head dairy farm. The cows were fed four times daily and milked two or three times daily depending on production. Feed consumption and production levels were monitored by computers which in turn determined feed rations and milking schedules. The cows were identified by magnetic-encoded chips placed in a plastic tag worn around the cow's neck.

At the Balatonnagybereki State Farm, the FFA group toured a pheasant breeding operation. Pheasant hens in captivity lay an average 52 eggs per year with a 60 percent survival rate.

Even though Hungary is part of the Communist Eastern Bloc, it, like Poland, is opening its doors to Western ideas and products. One of the biggest surprises to the students came when Mr. Perczel Mihaly, an administrator at the Academy of Sciences, told the group that 95 percent of all corn planted on Hungarian state farms is a Pioneer Hi-Bred seed stock. Mihaly also noted they have research agreements with Funks and Dekalb.

Another surprise was finding a McDonalds restaurant in Budapest. The next day the group learned that McDonalds in Hungary is a joint venture with the Balbolna State Farm. The farm provides all the meat and buns and also shares in the profits.

One reason for the contrast in technology is the rapid movement toward a multi-party political system and the dismantling of the communist system. Hungary is opening its doors to the Western world and is encouraging tourists, exchange students and businessmen to visit. New joint venture laws are providing incentives for foreign investment, such as McDonalds.

Hungary is equal in size to the state of Indiana with a population equal to that of Pennsylvania. A majority of the population lives below the U.S. poverty level.

(Continued on Page 43)

FFA In Action

The FFA members got to mingle and meet The Oak Ridge Boys since the chapter was a national Take Pride in America winner. "Oaks" are Joe Bonzel, fourth from left, then in front row, Richard Sturvis, Steve Sanders and Duane Allen.

Ohio

The Oak Ridge Boys Treat FFA Winners

Members of the **West Muskingum** FFA Chapter from Zanesville, Ohio, recently attended an Oak Ridge Boys concert at Ponderosa Park in Salem, compliments of the "Oaks."

The chapter was the first ever national winner of the FFA Take Pride In America Award presented last fall in Kansas City at the National FFA Convention.

The Oak Ridge Boys and the FFA teamed up in a nationwide campaign to preserve America's resources. Take Pride In America is a national public awareness campaign to encourage all Americans, urban or rural, to care for public and private natural and cultural resources.

West Muskingum FFA Chapter's projects included cleaning up three miles of the Licking River, construction of a nature and fitness trail for the public's use, as well as building and installing duck, geese and blue bird nesting boxes for natural wildlife.

For the winners of the national award the Oak Ridge Boys treated chapter members to a reception prior to the performance and free tickets to the concert. The "Oaks" also recognized the chapter before several thousand people during the concert. (Bill Reed, Advisor)

New Mexico

Chapter Fell Into a "Coal" Mine

The **Raton**, New Mexico, Chapter formed an agreement with the state of New Mexico so that FFA members were able to spend their summer reclaiming an abandoned coal mine tailings pile. The mine, located in nearby Sugarite Canyon State Park, was in operation from 1902 to 1940.

In May, a local FFA supporter contacted the chapter with news that a project might be available if the students were interested. Upon further investigation, the chapter members decided that the project seemed exciting and began preparing for the work.

The work completed including digging 1,074 basins, two-feet by five- feet and then seeded with wild grass seed (and later planted with trees and shrubs); building 51 check dams with rock to prevent eroding; making 780 linear feet of terraces on the steeper slopes; and constructing a 94 foot diversion channel which changed the water flow pattern of a nearby spring.

The students also built a handicap accessible nature trail which has ten information stations as well as a fish pond for the enjoyment of state park visitors.

The chapter hired 39 students and four adults to complete the project. The students provided labor, while the adults served as supervisors.

Because this was a federally funded reclamation project, the chapter was required to pay federal construction wages of $6.54 an hour. The project was completed so quickly that students will also receive a bonus of $5.00 an hour.

The chapter made a profit of $20,000 which is being used to purchase a 15-passenger van. The van will be used by the chapter for its trips to Kansas City, Washington, DC, and other points across the nation.

Providing jobs, education and economic development, the Sugarite Mine Reclamation Project proved to be a great success for everyone involved. (Elizabeth M. Morgan)

Texas

Double the Benefits

Members of the **Robert E. Lee**, Texas, FFA Chapter sponsored daily Food for America programs during the vacation church school conducted by the St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Baytown.

Lee FFA members presented a different type of animal each day including chickens, turkeys, a heifer, lambs, a young pig and baby rabbits. The grade level of students ranged from pre-kindergarten to the sixth grade.

Members used a special summer target audience of young people to tell about agriculture.

The programs were a double success in that the young people received a look at animal agriculture and it's importance; and FFA members who made presentations gained valuable leadership training experience.

South Dakota/Hungary

Testimonial From a Communist Country

Hi, my name is **Michael Knutsen**. I am a sophomore at South Dakota State

(Continued on Page 44)

Taking Pride in America

Two FFA chapters receive national awards

By Jody Pollok

President George Bush recognized six FFA chapters for their outstanding community service programs during the third annual "Take Pride In America" awards ceremony held on the south lawn of the White House, July 24. Of the six chapters recognized, the Raton, New Mexico and Strasburg, Virginia FFA chapters were named national winners.

Take Pride In America (TPIA) is a national public awareness campaign that was created three years ago to encourage Americans to take pride in their country and be responsible for its resources. The program welcomes individuals, groups and entire communities to participate.

The Raton chapter won a national TPIA award for the second year in a row. Elizabeth Morgan, last year's 1989 FFA National Achievement in Volunteerism winner accepted the award on behalf of her chapter. "Our project consisted of various community service projects such as a wildlife rehabilitation center, a tree research facility, working in the state park building trails and building picnic tables," said Morgan.

The Strasburg chapter was recognized for its two-part Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program."We thought it would help out the community a great deal to fix up the Maurey Town Park," said Corey Crabill, BOAC chairperson. "We cleaned it up and built a shelter for people to use. We also cut wood to give to the needy."

In order to fulfill their goals, Strasburg FFA members held meetings dealing with environmental issues, planted 7,000 pine seedlings, conducted informative presentations to school groups and community organizations, repaired playground equipment, constructed water breaks and participated in community clean-up efforts.

Four FFA Chapters from Wisconsin were selected as TPIA finalists.

The Lake Holcombe FFA Chapter constructed fish cribs to earn their award. Brian Guthman, Lake Holcombe advisor said, "We built 53 fish cribs (this year) in this on-going project. We have 119 right now. We plan on building 100 more—50 per year over the next two years." The cribs provide a habitat for fish which increases their population in the lakes.

The Marion chapter was recognized for its efforts in developing a park on the Pigeon River, landscaping both Marion High School and also a highly erodible hill next to the school. The FFA members plan to make a nature trail and identify different trees and plants found along the trail.

"Success and Growth in Valuable Community Projects" the New Auburn chapter's award winning project. "We didn't really have one main project, it was a lot of different projects such as pruning shrubs, transplanting trees, planting trout in area lakes, constructing an FFA sign and developing easy accesses to the school's nature trails," said Brenda Scheil, New Auburn advisor.

Recognition was given to the Turtle Lake,Wisconsin, chapter for its program to educate the old and the young. FFA members designed a petting zoo, developed a hiking trail and a boat dock on the school's 350 acre forest, built a 45 foot planter in front of the senior housing apartments and built bluebird houses and nesting boxes. •••

Hungary *(Continued from Page 39)*

For instance, state farm employees earn an average income of 103,000 forints annually or $1716.67.

Although FFA has operated exchange programs with Hungary in the past, this is the first time a large group of FFA members visited the country. Compared to the other countries visited, Hungary had the tightest security and placed the most restrictions on the group's movement.

Stephen Knutson of Clyde Park, Montana, 1988 Beef Production Proficiency award winner, is interested in returning to Hungary as an exchange student as a result of the tour. "I'd like to live in another country for awhile to experience another lifestyle and culture firsthand. Hungary is particularly interesting to me because of the recent changes and because it's an Eastern Bloc country." In early September, six FFA members traveled to Hungary as part of a special Work Experience Abroad exchange program.

In addition to Hungary, the European Travel Seminar participants visited West Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Austria, June 19 - July 8. The tour is held annually and is part of the proficiency winners award package. Participants' travel and lodging expenses are covered by the proficiency award sponsors as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. •••

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University majoring in ag journalism. Last year I was on a three-month experience in Hungary through the FFA's Work Experience Abroad program.

I received a grant from the U.S. Information Agency. The cost to me was $600 for three months in Hungary. I also participated in the Introduction to European Agriculture Tour while in Europe. I left home August 15, 1988, and spent two days in Washington, D.C. afterwhich I left for Europe along with 20 other FFA members from across the nation. We visited Luxembourg, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany before going to our specific countries.

My trip was to be different than most since I was going to a communist country. I landed in Budapest, Hungary, and was quickly escorted to a place called Kaposvar. I was to live on a college campus and work on their experimental farm. In Hungary the government owns all the farms, and so they are very large, some over 20,000 acres. My farm was a miniature version of these "state farms." We had sheep, dairy, beef, swine, fish, crops, goats, deer and hundreds of horses on our farm. My responsibilities included caring for some Suffolk ewes. I fed them in the morning and then took them to pasture to graze for about three or four hours. I also helped care for some young dairy calves and helped vaccinate and treat the animals.

My room was in the college dormitory and the students were very easy to get along with. A few of them could speak English with me as well as teach me Hungarian. There were discos twice each week for students on campus. These discos were a lot of fun. The music we listened to was mostly American rock like the Fat Boys or Bon Jovi. I also was able to play on their college basketball team. The students over in Hungary were the same as students here in Brookings or any other place in America. They like to have fun but still learn something from their classes.

I also had an opportunity for some different work. I worked for two weeks on a 1,000 cow dairy in the southern part of Hungary. I helped in the milking carousel as well as with the numerous baby calves around the farm. Before I knew it, it was December and I was on my way home, armed with all of my experiences and pictures to share with my friends back home. Maybe someday I can return and visit the many friends I left behind.

National Officers In Action

Pay For Your Dinner

Eastern Regional National FFA Vice President Warren Berger likes to be involved with local chapter members when he visits. So he often sticks around after a chapter banquet and helps with the clean up. In May he helped Raton, New Mexico, members do dishes after the banquet.

Michigan

Community on the Court

The USA **(Unionville Sebewaing Area)**, Michigan, FFA has a donkey basketball game bi-annually between local service groups, national honor society and the FFA. The game draws in the FFA Alumni to help supervise, take tickets and play in the contest. It is a fun recreational activity as well as a money maker. Last year we gave all the young children a free half-time donkey ride. Also, we got the crowd involved by having a free throw shooting contest for different ages.

Wisconsin

Alumni In Action: With a Little Help From Your Friends

Three years ago the **Freedom**, Wisconsin, FFA was dying. Because of the determination of a handful of local citizens and the formation of the Freedom FFA Alumni, the FFA program is now stronger than ever.

Over the past three years the Freedom Alumni has grown from the original thirteen members to a membership that now consists of 137. We are now able to provide the support that was so badly needed in the past.

Although a very young organization, the affiliate has already been able to provide the funds to send several of the students to camps, seminars and the Washington Leadership Conference.

With several annual fund raising events that we have established, we have been able to purchase for our FFA department, new jackets, supplies and most recently a new computer. With the purchase of the computer we feel our FFA program will be enhanced even more.

Montana

Pig Kissin'

The **Flathead**, Montana, FFA Chapter held their annual parent/member banquet in the shop. The meal was prepared by the Alumni and served in the cleaned out and set up shop. Over 300 members and guests were served including school staff, FFA supporters and past chapter presidents. Awards handed out included tool boxes, plaques and money.

The '88-89 officer team decided to try a few new ideas to liven up the four-hour banquet. To begin with they showed slides of each officer in official dress, with their office symbol and as a baby. The slides were shown as each officer was called and walked to the head table. After dinner, slides of past activities were shown. The senior members recognized their parents and awarded them certificates and roses.

New president Helen Hedstrom meets the pig she is about to kiss.

The most excitement of the banquet was when the winners of the Kiss the Pig contest were announced. Ten days before the banquet the officers exchanged piggy banks and tried to gather money from

(Continued on Page 46)

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Production of "America—We Are The FFA" was sponsored by The Wrangler Brand as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

members for the bank they held. The banks were also set out at the banquet registration table to gather donations from guests and parents. The two banks with the most money received the honor of kissing the pig at the head table. The lucky winners were retiring president Kirk Fritz and new president Helen Hedstrom. Over $100 was collected for the travel fund.

Ohio

Crop Busters

The **Oak Harbor**, Ohio, chapter harvested their 1989 wheat variety test plots at the school farm on July 12 and 13th, 1989.

The plots were custom harvested by Ed and Wes Gahler. The plots were planted on October 14, 1988, and followed the crop of soybeans. The harvested plots were 15 feet by 420 feet which equals .145 acre. The varieties were planted with a tester variety every three plantings so that soil type differences and other field differences could be discounted.

The overall yield for the test plots was 66.7 bushel per acre which is nearly six bushels better than the drought stricken 1988 wheat crop.

Bill Houtz of Luckey Farmers ran a small nitrogen plot this spring. After topdressing all the variety plots with 100 pounds of 28% nitrogen, he split an area of the mixed seed behind the plots to check results of nitrogen side dressed in the spring. The nitrogen plot showed a yield of 50.81 bushels per acre on the area not treated this spring with top dress fertilizer compared to 60.07 bushels per acre where 100 pounds of 28% nitrogen was applied. (Margie Ray, Reporter)

Texas

Home Taught Team

The newly-elected officers of the **Mansfield**, Texas, FFA recently attended their annual officer leadership training camp. The annual camp is conducted by the Mansfield High Agriscience program to train the new FFA officers. The camp was held June 27-29 at Bastrop State Park.

The three days spent at camp were focused on preparing for the upcoming school year. The officers set many goals which they hope to reach during the coming year. They became familiar with the many qualities in the FFA Code of Ethics and proper parliamentary procedure. They practiced the opening and closing ceremonies and each officer was required to prepare and present both an officer and a committee report.

The officers enjoyed swimming, volleyball, horseshoes and other activities during their free time.

On Tuesday the team stopped in Austin to visit the offices of State Representative Chris Harris in the state Capital building. The annual leadership camp is organized and conducted by advisors, Ron Whitson, Leon Stewart and Mike Whyte.

Wyoming

Money On Wheels

The **John B. Kendrick** Chapter of Sheridan, Wyoming, bought two market lambs at the annual 4-H and FFA livestock sale to donate to Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheels is a program used primarily by senior citizens who have physical limitations. Local people donate their time and vehicles for the delivery of the noon meal. Our chapter felt this was one way we could help out the senior citizens of our community. (Vandy Douglas, Reporter)

The 1917 barn houses the land lab's special classroom for A.I. instruction.

Oregon

Classroom In the Barn

North Clackamas, Oregon, members help their advisors host A.I. classes at the school's land lab twice each year.

For over ten years, All West/Select Sires beef coordinator and A.I. instructor, Henry Jaeger, has brought A.I. customers in from throughout the Pacific Northwest for classes at the classroom in the land lab's barn.

Members and the advisors buy 50-60 head of cattle to be used in the class and do the feeding and care for them during the four-days of classes. Afterward, the cattle are resold.

In exchange for the work, FFA members are given permission to take the A.I. class. So with two classes per year (and sometimes three) nearly every junior or senior gets a chance to be A.I. certified.

The rest of the class would be 16-18 adults brought together by All West. The class covers herd management, reproduction, nutrition and health as well as live animal lab work for artificial insemination.

Classes are taught in a show-ring classroom set up in the barn. The lab also includes facilities for meat cutting, feedlot, mechanics and test plots. Advisors Winn Sutfin and Bruce Frazer supervise the land lab.

"Dad, is this your high school yearbook or a nerd catalog?"

My Turn

with

Brad Chamblis

As I write this article, I am on the back side of our family farm sitting by a small creek where I spent countless hours after school and during the summer months. With its wide, rocky bed shaded by giant oak and sycamore trees, this creek was a perfect location for building forts that would protect the entire free world, excavating for ancient fossils and, most of all, hunting for "exotic wild game." This creek offered a veritable smorgasboard of adventures and treasures for a brave and creative pioneer/trail blazer such as myself. It was my creek, my special place for fun and adventure, a place for dreaming, and a place for making plans.

My most vivid memory of this creek is of a point system I developed to determine my daily success. I was only seven, so it was very simple. For each handful of worms I got one point, two points for each tadpole, three points for each "crawdad," four points for each frog, and five points, the ultimate points, for catching the queen mother of all creek critters, the cunning and elusive fresh water salamander. With this system it didn't take me long to figure out that success was not only a result of the speed of the hand but, more importantly, how many rocks you looked under.

On my best day I caught sixteen salamanders, four frogs, twenty-three "crawdads" and two family-size Parkay butter tubs full of worms for a grand total of 179 points—a new "world record." This may not seem like much of an accomplishment considering it was my creek and my point system, but to me, at that time, it was pretty darn impressive and I felt good about it.

Whatever we do in life, it is important to remember that it is our personal point system that matters. We are all successful if: we believe in ourselves, if we give our best effort, if what we do is fair and morally and ethically right, and if we do the best we can with what we have under the circumstances.

As I have traveled as a National Officer, I have become aware of a common misconception that success in the FFA is determined by the number of trophies, ribbons, plaques, and titles one accumulates. These are all important of course, but only in the skills and training they represent. It's these skills that make a lasting contribution to what you become. In our great organization, everyone can't catch the most salamanders, but everyone can acquire the skills and training that makes a lasting impact on their lives.

Times have changed for me now. I no longer go back to the creek to catch salamanders—I go to check the cattle. But I still take time to reflect and look ahead.

I can't help but to look ahead with anticipation to the time when I, along with 23,000 other FFA members, will travel to Kansas City for our National Convention.

For 62 years Kansas City has been a "special place" for FFA members; another place for fun and adventure-an exciting, friendly, positive, optiministic, enthusiastic and electrifying place! It's a place where we relflect on our heritage and purpose, a place where we celebrate the opportunities we have in this great country and organization.

Whatever we do in life, it is important to remember that it is our personal point system that matters.

This year, perhaps more than ever before, it is a place where we must confront the challenges facing our organization, decide where we want to go, and more specifically what we want to become. These are great challenges but they will be resolved as long as we remember, that like the simplicity of the creek, treehouse, or whatever place you had, the National FFA Convention is a special place to dream, plan, and prepare. A place where we continue to train for a successful entry into an industry that is waiting for a brave and creative pioneer/trailblazer like you.

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Joke Page

Grandson: Grandpa, will you help me find the common denominater?
Grandpa: They were looking for that thing when I was in school. They still haven't found it?

Karl Palmberg
Larchwood, Iowa

Q. What do you get when you cross a Hereford and a motorcycle?
A. A "cow" asaki!

Sheralee Freemyer
Briggsdale, Colorado

Q. What is the difference between an outlaw and a church bell?
A. One steals from the people; the other peals from the steeple.

Marquis Fort
Gilmer, Texas

"That's the scariest Halloween costume I've ever seen!"

Gina: I caught my boyfriend flirting.
Stephanie: I caught mine that way, too.

Jennifer Hagan
Tecumseh, Oklahoma

Patient: Doctor, Doctor! I feel like a bridge.
Doctor: What's come over you?
Patient: So far one bus, a car and a truck.

Brad Reeves
Gans, Oklahoma

Jack: *"Bet you didn't know that Davy Crockett had three ears."*
Mack: *"Three?"*
Jack: *"Sure. He had a right ear. He had a left ear. And he had a wild frontier."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

While freezing produce from their garden the woman cleaned, blanched, and cooled the vegetables, while the man jarred and labeled them.

Sometime later the woman went to the freezer and was surprised to see packages marked "Trees."

"Why did you write that?" she asked.

"I couldn't spell broccoli," he confessed.

Brian Fulkrod
Melrose, New Mexico

One day last week while traveling to the grocery store, a police officer pulled me over and said, *"I just clocked you at 75mph, have you anything to say for yourself?"*

"Yes sir" I replied. *"You must be wrong, my car won't run for a whole hour!"*

Sonny Talley
St. Amant, Louisiana

There were two pulpwooders who decided that they wanted to find a new job, so they went to the airport and filled out an application.

The man asked the first one what could he do. He said, *"I'm a pilot."*

So he said, *"OK, we need a new pilot,"* and they hired him.

The second man came in and they asked him what he could do. He said, *"I'm a pulpwooder."*

The man said, *"The fellow who was in here last said you and he worked together, but if he's a pilot, how can that be?"*

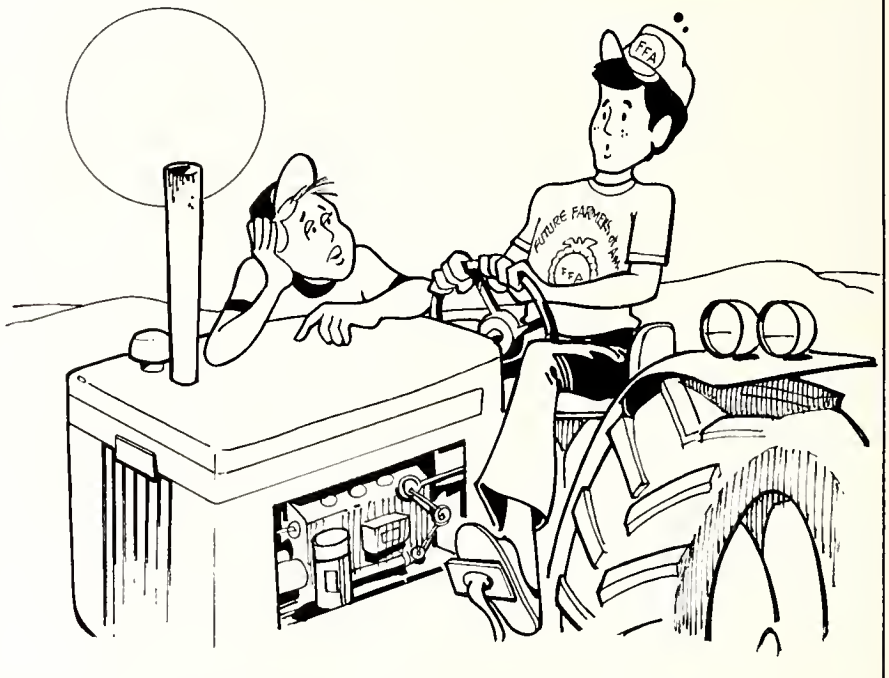
"Well, I cut the wood, and he piles it.

James Cleckler
Clanton, Alabama

Q. What did one dirt clod say to another?
A. Don't look now, but I think we're being fallowed!

Ted Gaetjen
Hallettsville, Texas

Charlie, the Greenhand



"If you hadn't backed into the judge's car, I think you would have won the tractor rodeo."

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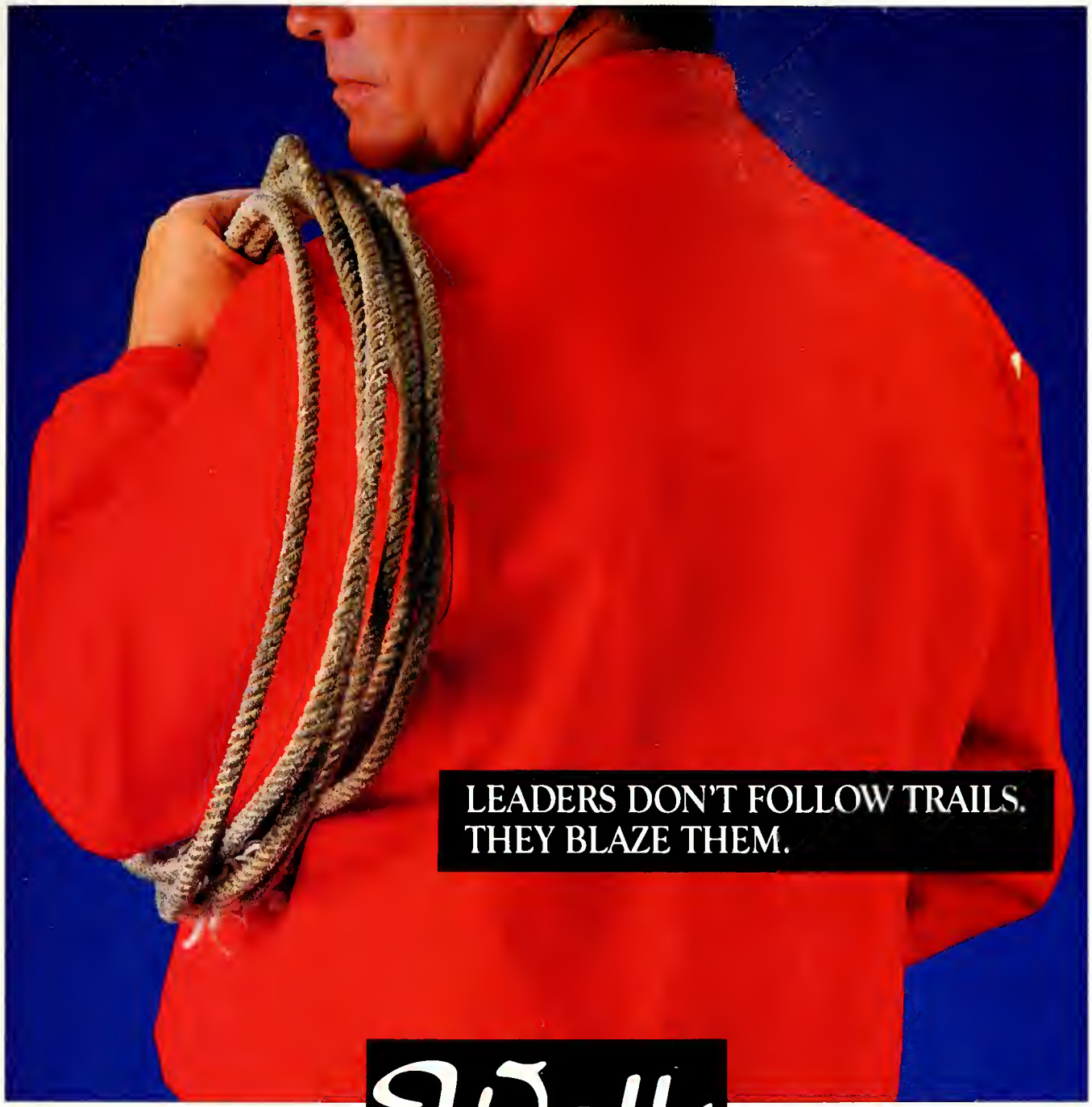

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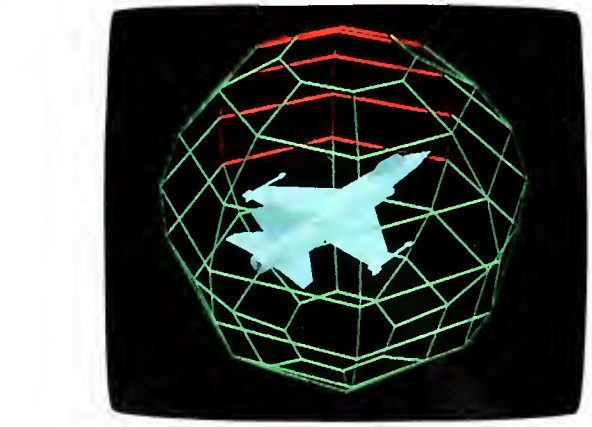
PERHAPS YOUR FUTURE'S UP IN THE AIR. AND YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT.

If you're undecided but looking for a future that's exciting, rewarding and full of possibilities, allow us to point you in the right direction: Up. In the Air Force. We've got openings in today's fastest-rising careers. From computers and communications to electronics and avionics. Over 200 in all. But don't let the number of choices intimidate you. If you're not already sure about which field you want, our unique screening and orientation process can help. It evaluates your strengths and interests, and helps you find a career that makes the most of them. You may discover talents (and valuable job opportunities) you never knew you had. Of course, no matter what career you pick, you'll get top-quality training and guaranteed hands-on experience in your area of choice or aptitude.



Plus the chance to continue your education as you build a career. You can pick up college credits or even a degree in the fully-accredited Community College of the Air Force.

So whatever your dreams are, if you want to get them off the ground, call 1-800-423-USAF.

It could be one of the more uplifting things you ever do.

AIM HIGH.